

2019 aPA Convention

Speaker Bios

Keynote Speaker: Arthur C. Evans, Jr., Ph.D



Scientist-practitioner, clinical and community psychologist and health care innovator Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, is CEO of the American Psychological Association, a post he assumed on March 20, 2017. In this position, he heads the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States, with nearly 115,700 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students as its members.

Before joining APA, Evans spent 12 years as commissioner of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Service, a \$1.2 billion health care agency that is the behavioral health and intellectual disabilities safety net for 1.5 million Philadelphians. The transformation of the Philadelphia service system has saved millions of dollars that the city reinvested in other community-based services. Earlier in his career, Evans was deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, where he led major strategic initiatives in the state's behavioral health care system.

Evans has been recognized nationally and internationally for his work in behavioral health care policy and service delivery innovation. In 2015, he was recognized by the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy as an "Advocate for Action". In 2013, he received the American Medical Association's top government service award in healthcare, the Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service. Evans is also regarded as a strong mental health advocate and was recognized by Faces and Voices of Recovery with the Lisa Mojer-Torres Award. In 2017, he was awarded the Visionary Leadership Award by the National Council of Behavioral Health and inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame at Florida Atlantic University, his alma mater. He has also been recognized as a strong advocate for social justice, having received three different Martin Luther King Jr. awards.

Evans holds faculty appointments at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Drexel University School of Public Health, and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and has held a faculty appointment at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Evans is the author or co-author of 40 peer-reviewed research articles and of numerous chapters, reviews and editorials. He is a fellow and member of the board of trustees of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Evans holds a doctorate in clinical/community psychology from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in experimental psychology from Florida Atlantic University, where he also completed his undergraduate work.

Justin Thomas, Ph.D.

Dr. Thomas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and is the Director of the UAB Behavioral Sleep Medicine Program integrated into the UAB Sleep/Wake Disorders Center. He recently completed a 2-year term as Chair of the Practice Committee for the Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine and currently serves as a member-at-large on the Board of Directors. He has research funding from the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health. His research interests are translational, spanning basic, clinical, and population science and focus on circadian and sleep mechanisms underlying health, as well as disparities in health.

Joseph E. Comaty, MS, Ph.D., MSCP, MP

Dr. Comaty received his M.S. in experimental psychology from Villanova University; his Ph.D. in psychology with a specialization in clinical neuropsychology from the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, in Illinois; and his postdoctoral Masters Degree in clinical psychopharmacology from Alliant University/CSPP of California. He is a licensed psychologist under the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) and a licensed Medical Psychologist (i.e., prescribing psychologist) under the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners. He retired from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Behavioral Health in 2013 where he was the Chief Psychologist and Medical Psychologist and Director of the Division of Quality Management. He has been an adjunct assistant professor in psychology at Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge from 1994 to 2017 and serves as emeritus faculty of the Southern Louisiana Internship Consortium (SLIC) in psychology at LSU. He served as member of the LSBEP from 2006 to 2010 and as its chair from 2010 to 2011. He is a past charter member of the APA Designation Committee for Postdoctoral Education and Training Programs in Psychopharmacology for Prescriptive Authority from 2010 to 2014 and as its chair from 2013 to 2014; and is a current site reviewer for APA's Committee on Accreditation. He is a past member of the Model Act and Regulation Revision Committee for the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). He currently serves as Chair of the PEP JTA and EDC committees for ASPPB. His research is in the areas of behavior therapy, pharmacology, and clinical psychopharmacology. He is the author of over 60 articles, book chapters, and presentations. He is a co-author of the psychopharmacology textbook, *Julien's Primer of Drug Action*, the most recent edition being published in July 2018. He has served on federal grant review committees and has been a reviewer for Psychiatric Services; The Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences; the Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research; and the Journal of Psychology & Clinical Psychiatry.

Harvey Joanning, Ph.D.

Dr. Joanning is an Emeritus Professor and former director of the Couple and Family Therapy Doctoral Programs at Iowa State University and Texas Tech University. He is also a licensed psychologist and licensed marriage and family therapist with 40 years clinical experience in family therapy clinics and university counseling centers at Texas Tech, Iowa State, and the University of Iowa. He has done extensive research developing therapies for couples and families. Dr. Joanning and Dr. Shelley-Tremblay are Co-principal Investigators of the Brain in Love Project: The Neurobiology of Intimate Relationships.

Elizabeth Schneider, Ph.D.

Dr. Schneider is a licensed psychologist and an Assessment Consultant for Multi-Health Systems (MHS). She is credentialed by the National Register of Health Service Psychologists, a member of the Society of Pediatric Psychology as well as the Society of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology. Dr. Schneider completed her fellowship in Pediatric & Clinical Child Psychology at the University of Florida, and her residency at Miami Children's Hospital. She has served children and families in hospitals, outpatient clinics, residential facilities, schools, and private practice. She has numerous peer-reviewed publications and has been involved in several NIH-funded studies aimed at improving health outcomes. Her focus is on applying her experience in behavioral medicine and knowledge of health and child psychology to better inform innovative initiatives to improve clinical care and patient outcomes.

Jack Shelley-Tremblay, Ph.D.

Dr. Shelley-Tremblay is Professor and Chair of Psychology at the University of South Alabama. He is an experimental neuropsychologist with expertise in psychophysiology, electroencephalography, and cognitive assessment. Dr. Shelley-Tremblay currently oversees graduate programs in Brain and Behavioral Science and a Combined/Integrated Clinical and Counseling Psychology Program. Dr. Joanning and Dr. Shelley-Tremblay are Co-principal Investigators of the Brain in Love Project: The Neurobiology of Intimate Relationships

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