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APA Launches *OMNA On Tour*

Arlington, Va. – The American Psychiatric Association (APA) Department of Minority/National Affairs (OMNA) is proud to announce the launch of *OMNA on Tour*, led by Annelle Primm, M.D., M.P.H., OMNA Director.

OMNA on Tour is designed to educate communities around the nation about the significance and impact on community well-being of ethnic and racial disparities in mental health. The tour aims to foster collaboration among a variety of stakeholders with the goal to develop local action plans to eliminate mental health disparities.

While on tour, Dr. Primm and APA member experts will engage constituencies from a wide variety of disciplines, such as but not limited to psychiatrists, primary care physicians, substance abuse treatment providers, community leaders, and local mental health system administrators.

“Health care providers need to learn about the ways in which minority populations are unique from an economic, social, medical, and historical point of view,” Dr. Primm says. “Psychiatrists should seek out information about how to maximize the quality of care they provide to these groups, including how best to communicate to optimize treatment and patient outcomes.”

OMNA on Tour will launch at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C. during the American Association of Community Psychiatrists (AACP) Winter Conference on Saturday, January 22, 2005. Subsequent tour stops for 2005 are scheduled for Philadelphia and Memphis.

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society, founded in 1844, whose more than 36,000 physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. For more information, visit the APA Web site at www.psych.org.

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