AAPB Endorses the APA’s Authoritative Diversity/Inclusivity Guidance Framework

The 2017/18 AAPB Board of Directors

Beginning in 2015, the Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback (AAPB) leadership considered the continuing evolution of the study and practice of the biofeedback modality in consideration of psychology and other disciplines, changes in society at large, and emerging data about the different needs for particular individuals and groups historically marginalized or disenfranchised within and by psychology based on their ethnic/racial heritage and social group identity or membership.

To that end, AAPB has formally endorsed the components of the American Psychological Association (APA) “Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice and Organizational Change for Psychologists.” As an organization that crosses professional disciplines, AAPB applies and encourages these principles and guidelines to all respective disciplines that utilize the application of applied psychophysiology and biofeedback. All AAPB volunteers and members are expected to follow these guidelines.

• Guideline #1: Biofeedback practitioners, educators, and researchers are encouraged to recognize that, as cultural beings, they may hold attitudes and beliefs that can detrimentally influence their perceptions of and interactions with individuals who are ethnically and racially different from themselves.
• Guideline #2: Biofeedback practitioners, educators, and researchers are encouraged to recognize the importance of multicultural sensitivity/responsiveness, knowledge, and understanding about ethnically and racially different individuals.
• Guideline #3: As educators, biofeedback practitioners, educators, and researchers are encouraged to employ the constructs of multiculturalism and diversity in psychological education.
• Guideline #4: Culturally sensitive psychological researchers are encouraged to recognize the importance of conducting culture-centered and ethical psychological research among persons from ethnic, linguistic, and racial minority backgrounds.
• Guideline #5: Biofeedback practitioners, educators, and researchers strive to apply culturally appropriate skills in clinical and other applied psychological practices.
• Guideline #6: Biofeedback practitioners, educators, and researchers are encouraged to use organizational change processes to support culturally informed organizational (policy) development and practices.

The AAPB Board of Directors’ enthusiastic endorsement of the APA’s Guidance on behalf of our members reflects our commitment to the highest standards of practice, care, knowledge, competency, excellence, and professionalism. This special issue of Biofeedback magazine is a compilation of diversity/cultural resource material to serve as a reference to our members.