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**BEA Award in Support of Conferences and Workshop  
2020**

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**Workshop or Conference name:** 2021 Rehabilitation Psychology Conference (RP2021)

**Sponsoring Organization:** APA Division 22 (Division of Rehabilitation Psychology)

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***Please provide responses to the prompts below (limit of 1500 characters for each).***

***Goals and objectives***

*The clarity and nature of the conference or workshop goals and objectives and how they will enhance the training of faculty and supervisors of graduate students, interns, and/or postdoctoral fellows in psychology.*

The goal of this proposal is to ensure that the 2021 Rehabilitation Psychology Conference (RP2021), to be held virtually in February 2021, is fully inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities.

The annual Rehabilitation Psychology Conference provides topical symposia, workshops, and posters to advance training and education in the field of rehabilitation psychology. This annual conference has a strong record of enhancing training in disability and rehabilitation through dedicated programming focused on (1) disability identity as a factor in multicultural competency, (2) trainee-led rehabilitation research, (3) professional skill-building in integrative rehabilitation settings, and (4) supervision of trainees with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

Given the ongoing COVID pandemic, conference leadership recently announced that RP2021 will be held virtually in order to support the safety and welfare of our members. This shift to a virtual platform is especially fitting for the RP2021 conference theme, "Resilience: Rehabilitation Psychology's Response to Global Challenges," and is aligned with our field's foundational principles of inclusion and accessibility.

If selected, funds from this grant will support ADA accessible captioning and interpreter services for live sessions, as well as captioning and transcript services for pre-recorded sessions. These services will ensure equitable access to RP2021 content.

***Leadership***

*The qualifications of the person(s) identified to plan and lead the conference or workshop, relative to the topic of focus. Included in the qualifications should be evidence of national or regional leadership (e.g., publication of scholarly works related to education and training, participation in past workshops, etc.).*

The RP2021 Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Reshma Naidoo, is a diverse group of rehabilitation psychology leaders spanning a wide range of career stages, work settings, and areas of expertise. Dr. Naidoo co-chaired the 2020 Rehabilitation Psychology Conference and has significant organizational leadership experience in her role as a neurorehabilitation specialist at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Other committee members include Drs. Abbey Hughes (incoming chair for RP2022), Catherine Wilson (Division 22 President), Terrie Price (conference manager) Abigail Hardin (communications and social media management), Mayra Sanchez Gonzalez (poster chair), Caitlyn Arutiunov (CE chair), Anne Arewasikporn (volunteer organization), and Rebecca Frontera (Awards Chair). Dr. Hughes has scholarly expertise in use of virtual platforms for developing, recording, and sharing accessible content.

Although the submission portal for conference abstracts has not yet closed, content for RP2021 will most certainly be led by premier rehabilitation psychologists and neuropsychologists, with a special emphasis on those who contribute new findings in the wake of the COVID pandemic

### ***Participants***

*The qualifications of conference or workshop participants relative to the topic of focus, including their potential for implementing outcomes of the conference or workshop toward enhancing graduate education.*

Given the new and virtual nature of RP2021, obtaining an accurate estimate for expected attendees is limited. However, attendance at recent rehabilitation psychology conferences has ranged between 250 and 300. We anticipate a likely larger and more geographically diverse group of participants for RP2021 given the virtual nature of the conference. We hope that if selected for funding, provision of accessible audio and visual services will promote additional engagement.

Participants will be trainees (undergraduate, graduate, intern, postdoc) and professionals of all levels. Given that RP2021 programming is designed with a wide audience in mind, we anticipate that most, if not all, attendees will be able to identify specific program offerings that interest them and speak to their areas of expertise within rehabilitation psychology.

Significant scholarly and advocacy activities are likely to result from RP2021, as investigators may.

### ***Impact***

*The estimated or potential impact of the conference or workshop in terms of the diffusion of new ideas resulting from its outcomes in the education community appropriate to the proposal's focus.*

The principle of enhancing accessibility of RP2021 for individuals with disabilities, which forms the primary justification for this proposal, is grounded in the value-laden beliefs and principles put forth by rehabilitation psychology leaders like Beatrice Wright (Wright, 1983) and Dana Dunn (Dunn et al., 2016), both of whom have emphasized that many perceived negative effects of disability can be attributed more to the environment than to the individual, and thus can be diminished when environments become more accessible.

The desired outcomes for attendees at this conference include: (1) a stronger appreciation for multiculturally inclusive rehabilitation practices that include people with disabilities; (2) preparation of attendees to cope with ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic; and (3) making some network connections with other professionals with similar research/clinical interests.

### ***Budget***

*The clarity and completeness of the conference or workshop budget, how realistic it is, and how the grant funds are to be used to offset expenses incurred (e.g., travel, registration, speaker fees).*

We are requesting \$2,000 to support captioning and transcription costs for RP2021 to promote accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing participants. We will use a verified transcription service (approximately \$1.50 per minute) for all pre-recorded sessions and for live closed captioning during all conference presentations, meetings, and networking events. With approximately 22 hours, a budget of \$2,000 will cover a significant portion of the accessibility costs.

Given that RP2021 has other some sources of financial support, additional expenditures or use of funds from this grant are not indicated. Those expenditures will be brought to the Program Committee as needed.

More information about RP2021 is available upon request.