



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jim Sliwa

(202) 336-5707

jsliwa@apa.org

**APA ELECTS ATLANTA CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR
JENNIFER KELLY 2021 PRESIDENT**
Will serve as 2020 president-elect

WASHINGTON -- Jennifer F. Kelly, PhD, owner and director of the Atlanta Center for Behavioral Medicine, has been elected the 2021 president of the American Psychological Association.

"I am honored to have been elected to lead the nation's oldest and largest association representing psychology," Kelly said. "As a discipline that focuses its research on understanding human behavior, psychology is uniquely situated to help solve problems facing society, from the opioid epidemic to gun violence. I look forward to helping the organization achieve its mission of advancing the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve lives."

In addition to her independent practice, Kelly serves as co-chair of the newly formed APA Advocacy Coordinating Committee, which is responsible for evaluating and prioritizing APA's public policy advocacy goals to drive the organization and the science of psychology forward. She also served on the APA Board of Directors as recording secretary from 2013-2018. Prior to that, she served on the board as a member-at-large. She is a member of the association's Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology Advisory Committee.

Kelly has been director of the Atlanta Center for Behavioral Medicine since 1994. She works primarily with patients who have chronic medical conditions. Her area of specialty is pain management, a topic on which she has written numerous research articles and book chapters. She is certified in clinical health psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology.

A native of Gulfport, Mississippi, Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi and a doctorate in clinical psychology from Florida State University. She is a graduate of the 2003 class of Leadership Atlanta.

Kelly is a past president of the Georgia Psychological Association. She has served as a member-at-large of the American Board of Professional Psychology Foundation since 2014 and was an associate editor of the journal *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* from 2006-2011.

Her professional awards include the Timothy B. Jeffrey Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Health Psychology; the APA Karl F. Heiser Advocacy Award; and the 2006 Outstanding Psychologist Award from APA Division on State, Provincial and Territorial Affairs.

The American Psychological Association, in Washington, D.C., is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States. APA's membership includes nearly 118,400 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students. Through its divisions in 54 subfields of psychology and affiliations with 60 state, territorial and Canadian provincial associations, APA works to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve lives.

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