**Black Psychiatrist and American Psychiatry**

Solomon Carter Fuller

* First black psychiatrist in U.S.
* Liberian; graduated from Livingston College in Salisbury, N.C
* Got his M.D. at Boston University in 1897
* According to Charles Pinderhuges (Chief of Psychiatry @ VA Medical Center) Fuller received psychiatric training from Boston University, Long Island College Hospital, and Westborough State Hospital 1897-1901
* Studied abroad at the University of Munich, Germany
* Returned to the U.S. and did groundbreaking research in Alzheimer’s disease.
* Went on to teach at Boston University for 30 yrs.

Raphael Hernandez

* 1928 graduate of Meharry med. College
* Became certified in psychiatry and neurology at Mason General Hospital and Hines VA Hospital.
* Taught psychology at Meharry before Dept. of Psychiatry was created.
* Chief of neurology services at VA Hospital in San Juan (47-54) and Chief of Neurology service es at Tuskegee VA Hospital (54-56).
* Director of Negro section in VA Hospital in Murfreesboro, TN

Ernest Y. Williams

* Medical Student at Howard University (1926-30)
* Rotation at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in D.C.
* 1931, won a 2 yr. fellowship to Columbia Univ. College of Physicians and Surgeons.
* Became head of Psychology Dept. in 1952.

Charles Prudhomme

* First black psychoanalyst
* Known also for being the first black psychiatrist appointed to Mental Health Commission.
* Fought for desegregation in schools
* Played Professional Baseball for Kansas City Monarchs, Negro League.

The Civil Rights Movement

* Charles Wilkinson, M.D. was the driving force behind involving black psychiatrist.
* Created a small group that scrutinized the effects of Civil Rights movement on the mental health of black Americans.
* From this small group, the Black Psychiatrist of American, BPA was formed.
* Alvin Puissant was the most visible face of black psychiatry in the Civil Rights Movement.
* Numerous Publications arose talking about the impact of racism on black Americans (see slide show for examples).

BPA

* May 1969
* Chester Price and Alfred Cannon (Chairman and Vice Chairman)
* When compiling their list of goals, they centered on the involvement and participation of black psychiatrist in deliberations of APA.

Department of Psychiatry at Meharry Medical College

* Prior to its development, no psychiatric services at Meharry
* Robert S. Anderson, director of dept. of medicine, pushed for a Dept. of Psychiatry.
* Met with professional pushback and patient skepticism (communal beliefs added to patient denial)
* Anderson, Rolfe, and Aldrich decide to groom a black psychiatric resident for position to head dept. of psychiatry (Lloyd C. Elam)
* Elam started in 1961
* The biggest changes he made were to the curriculum.
* An increased need arose for full time staff members.

Military Psychiatry

* In 1960s, armed forces began training black American psychiatrist to become career military psychiatrist.
* NO official records that ID military psychiatrist by race and ethnicity exist.
* Through verbal testimonies and membership directories of APA, able to identify around two dozen black American psychiatrist who served in one of the branches of the armed forces.
* First Known: Oxley, Randall, Edwards, Collins, Gueydan
* Walter Reed Army Hospital (14 psychiatrist served there)
* Navy: Campbell, Charles, Coleman, Dilan, Forte, Fuller, Givens
* Air Force: George Hudson, Frank Haynes, Leonard Lawrence, Ledro Justice

Recruitment

* Black psychiatrists were active in the efforts to increase the number of first year black medical students in the 1960s.
* James L. Curtis spear headed the minority recruitment efforts at Cornell University Medical School.
* Dr. Alvin Puissant and James Comer (both black psychiatrist) became Dean of students at Harvard and the Associate Dean at Yale University (respectively).
* As psychiatrist, they were able to address a multitude of issues in regards to black incoming students that were over looked by selection committees (negotiating college climates, active discouragement, racism, etc.)
* Black psychiatrist wanted to encourage black medical students to pursue psychiatry.
* Robert Sharply started the Solomon Carter Fuller Fellowship. This was appealing to black medical students because it gave them access to residency opportunities that were hard to come by for minorities all over the U.S. (at medical centers that served minority populations).
* In 1974, the American Psychiatric Association and National Institute of Mental Health allowed and funded minority students to attend their meetings. This gave medical students insight into navigating major professional organizations, and it also provided the organizations with a minority perspective that was lacking.

Black Faculty

* No names mentioned
* However, we do know that there had to have been a great professional sacrifice made by faculty members for the sake of academia and teaching rather than pursuing a medical career.

**Christopher Howell**