

William B. Lawson, M.D., Ph.D., D. F.A.P.A.

Dr. Lawson is currently Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Howard University College of Medicine and Hospital . He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, Chair of the Committee of Tellers for the American Psychiatric Association, treasurer of the American Orthopsychiatry Association, and a member of the American College of Psychiatrists. He was named one of “America’s Leading Black Doctors” twice the by Black Enterprise Magazine, including being listed as one of the ten psychiatrists. Dr. Lawson is a past Chair of the Section of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the National Medical Association, a past president of the Black Psychiatrists of America, and formerly Vice Chair of the Addiction Council of the American Psychiatric Association. He received the Howard University Faculty Senate Creativity and Research Award, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Exemplary Psychiatrist Award and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Outstanding Psychologist Award., was the Andrea Delgado Honoree and Lecturer for the Black Psychiatrists of America, received the Jeanne Spurlock Award from the American Psychiatric Association, received the E.Y. Williams Clinical Scholar of Distinction Award from the Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Section of the National Medical Association, a Multicultural Workplace Award from the Veterans Administration for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of diversity and multicultural understanding, received numerous award for excellent teaching.

Dr. Lawson was named as a national mentor by the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill, and is on the Scientific Advisory Boards of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance. Dr. Lawson received his Bachelor’s degree from Howard University, Master’s from the University of Virginia, and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Chicago, and did his residency at Stanford University Medical Center.

He completed a fellowship in clinical psychopharmacology at the National Institute of Mental Health intramural program and an addictions fellowship at Vanderbilt University. . He is certified by the Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in General Psychiatry and has Added Qualifications in Addictions. He has received state, federal, and foundation support for pharmacological research and to develop new and effective treatments. He currently has three RO! National Institute of Mental Health grants and has conducted numerous clinical trails of new treatments. These grants have allowed Dr. Lawson to realize his dream of studying the interaction of culture and genetics in ethnicity and mood disorders. . He has over one hundred publications involving severe mental illness and its relationship to psychopharmacology, substance abuse, and racial and ethnic issues. He has a long standing concern about ethnic disparities in mental health treatment, and has been an outspoken advocate for access to services for the severely mentally ill. He has been chair of the Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences since 2000.