ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

2025



ANNUAL REPORT

Educate, Inspire, Connect!

info@avahealth.org

https://www.avahealth.org/

952-974-3270

4505 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

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A Letter from AVA's Chair & President

Dear AVA Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the passion, dedication, and resilience of the Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) community. This year marked an important milestone as we celebrated 20 years of advancing the science, education, and prevention of violence and abuse while continuing to build a future grounded in collaboration, innovation, and impact.

In a year shaped by global uncertainty, evolving healthcare challenges, and rapidly advancing technology, AVA remained steadfast in its mission to improve the health and well-being of individuals affected by violence and abuse across the lifespan. Together, we continued to educate, connect, and inspire healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, and advocates committed to addressing one of the most significant public health issues of our time.

Our educational reach expanded significantly in 2025. Through 12 hybrid educational events, including our annual San Diego Chadwick Pre-Conference, Global Health Summit, ACES Health Champions Network initiative, and numerous member-led presentations, 1,562 professionals participated in AVA programming, an increase over 2024. These opportunities strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration while advancing evidence-based approaches to recognizing, treating, and preventing the health consequences of violence and abuse.

This year also marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter for AVA as we will search for additional board members who bring fresh perspectives, diverse expertise, and renewed energy to our work. As we look ahead, we are intentionally strengthening the foundation of our organization to ensure long-term sustainability and continued growth.

One of our key priorities moving forward is member engagement. The membership committee is dedicated to creating meaningful opportunities for members to connect, collaborate, and contribute throughout the year. We are also enhancing our website and social media presence to better share research, educational resources, member achievements, and timely information with our growing community. Equally important, we are committed to leveraging the extraordinary expertise of our current members while re-engaging our past leaders and former Board members whose wisdom and experience continue to shape AVA's future.

Our investment in infrastructure is an investment in our mission. By strengthening the systems that support our organization, we are positioning AVA to expand its reach, increase member value, foster collaborative research, and develop the next generation of leaders through initiatives such as the AVA Scholars Program.

As we begin our next chapter, we are excited to welcome new voices, new ideas, and new leaders who share our vision of a world where healthcare professionals are equipped to recognize, respond to, and prevent the effects of violence and abuse. Together, we will continue building a vibrant, connected, and sustainable organization that advances education, research, advocacy, and healing for years to come. Thank you for your continued commitment to AVA and for the countless ways you strengthen our community. We are honored to serve alongside you as we continue this important work.



With gratitude,

Ginger Meyer, MSW, ICSW, CCTP
Chair of the Board of Directors

Allison Jackson, MD, MPH
President





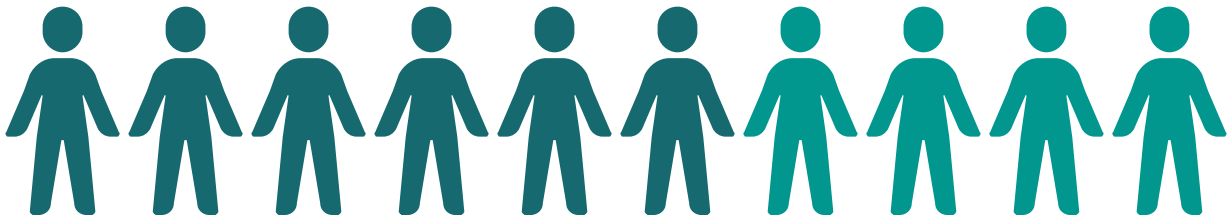
ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Academy on Violence and Abuse

AVA is a non-profit, academic, membership-based organization. Our membership includes a variety of health care professionals and individuals who are committed to the mission and vision of the Academy. We continue to expand health education and research and integrate knowledge about violence and abuse into the training of all health professionals to promote safe families, safe workplaces, and safe communities.

OUR VISION & MISSION



VISION

The vision of the AVA is that the recognition, treatment, and prevention of the health effects of violence and abuse are fully integrated into healthcare and society so that people of all ages are safe and healthy.

MISSION

The mission of the AVA is to advance health education and research on the recognition, treatment, and prevention of the health effects of violence and abuse throughout the life course.





This will be accomplished by:

- Fostering and advancing best science regarding the relationship of violence and abuse to health, including prevention, identification, and care.
- Accelerating the translation of developing knowledge about violence, abuse, and health into healthcare practice, education, and public policy.
- Developing and widely promulgating competencies and standards for quality healthcare addressing the impacts of violence and abuse.
- Increasing student, policy maker, and public awareness about the relationships between violence, abuse, and health.
- Improving the abilities and skills of all healthcare professionals to deliver compassionate, quality care to those affected by violence and abuse.

2025 AVA Board Of Directors



Randell C. Alexander, MD, PhD
Professor and Chief, Department of Pediatrics
Division of Child Protection and Forensic Pediatrics
First Coast Child Protection at the University of Florida - Jacksonville



Shira M. Berkovits, Esq., PhD
Founder & Director, Sacred Spaces



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Developmental & Forensic Pediatrics, PA



David L. Corwin, MD
Professor and Director of Forensic Services
Pediatrics Department University of Utah School of Medicine



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Vice Chair for Research, Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at PSOM
Director, Mixed Methods Research Lab



Christine M. Forke, PhD, MSN, CRNP
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health and Core Faculty in the Public Health Program at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn)



Susan F. Moan Hardie, MN, PhD
Education and Child Development and Masters in Psychiatric and Community Mental Health Nursing from the University of California, Los Angeles.

2025 AVA Board Of Directors



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President and CEO, DC Rape Crisis Center



Ta**sneem Ismailji, MD, MPH**
AVA Co-Founder
Family Violence Educator/Researcher



Allison Jackson, MD, MPH, FAAP
Division Chief, Child & Adolescent Protection Center Children's National Hospital Washington Children's Foundation Endowed Professor of Child & Adolescent Protection Associate Professor of Pediatrics, The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Board Chair



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Fulbright U.S. Scholar, Hong Kong 2018
Director Resilience & Protective Factor Initiative, Florida State University Multidisciplinary Center



Ginger Meyer, MSW, LCSW, CCTP
Clinical Director for Children's Medical and Mental Health Resource Network a program of SIU School of Medicine



Nora Montalvo-Liendo, RN, PhD, FAAN
Associate Professor at the School of Nursing at Texas A&M University Higher Education Center



Hannah Reach, JD
Immigration Attorney licensed in Illinois and Colorado

2025 AVA Board Of Directors



Rebecca Rodriguez-Pou, MD
Child Abuse Fellow
University of Florida-Jacksonville



F. David Schneider, MD, MSPH
Perry E. Gross, MD, Distinguished Chair in Family Medicine, and Professor and Chair of Family and Community Medicine
UT Southwestern Medical Center



Susie Wiet, MD
Medical Director, Owner and Founder Sovegna Holistic Ingergration Therapy

100% of AVA Board of Directors have pledged to be a No Hit Home



To make that pledge for your home click the link or scan the QR code

2024 Retired Board Of Directors

The Academy on Violence and Abuse extends its deepest gratitude to our dedicated Board members, Dr. Barbara Knox, Dr. Un Sung Chung, and Dr. Brooks Keeshin, for their exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment, and steadfast service to AVA. Their vision, expertise, and passion have played an instrumental role in advancing our mission to improve the recognition, prevention, and treatment of violence and abuse as a critical public health issue. Through their thoughtful guidance, collaborative spirit, and tireless advocacy, they have helped strengthen our organization, inspire our members, and expand our impact both nationally and internationally. We are profoundly grateful for their contributions and for the lasting legacy they continue to build within AVA.



Un-Sun Chung, MD, PhD
Kyungpook National University Children's Hospital



Barbara Knox, MD, FAAP



Brooks Keeshin, MD
Associate Professor
Pediatrics, University of Utah

AVA Celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2025

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA), we reflect with deep gratitude and admiration on all our community has accomplished. What began in 2004 as a bold idea shared by a small group of health professionals has grown into a vibrant, global movement dedicated to preventing, recognizing, understanding and responding to the health effects of violence and abuse across the life course. We knew then, as we know now, that violence and abuse are not just social or legal issues. They are foundational health issues—with lasting effects on the brain, body and spirit.

Over these first two decades, AVA has worked tirelessly to improve understanding of the relationship between violence and abuse and health. AVA has hosted national meetings, global summits, regional academies and preconference institutes. We have published innovative curricula and produced a 4.5-hour DVD that provides the most comprehensive introduction ever produced to the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACES) and its origins. AVA has also delivered webinars and training sessions that have reached thousands, inspiring a new generation of trauma-aware clinicians and educators. From pediatrics to geriatrics, from public health to psychiatry, the effects of this work are now visible in exam rooms, classrooms and policy settings worldwide.

We are most proud of our growth as a *community*. The ACEs Health Champions Network, which began in September 2021, reflects this beautifully—uniting passionate individuals dedicated to advancing healing-centered, trauma-aware systems of care. Through mentorship programs, regional academies, preconference institutes and open-hearted collaboration, AVA has helped create a professional home for those who refuse to look away from suffering and are willing to stand for hope, healing and justice.

We've also expanded our reach beyond the United States, bringing together worldwide leaders through the AVA Global Health Summits to address violence and abuse as a global public health priority. These connections have reinforced our belief that, although our cultures may differ, our shared humanity and dedication to healing unite us.

Recognizing the significant advances in science, advocacy and integrated healthcare, AVA has played an essential role in identifying violence and abuse as major health factors and in building evidence that connects early adversity with lifelong health problems. We have spoken truth to power, urged institutions to act and supported professionals in leading change from within.

Looking ahead, we know our work remains far from complete. The next chapter will require us to expand access to virtual education, elevate diverse voices, engage communities with humility and respect, and advocate for integrated healthcare systems that no longer retraumatize but instead restore and protect.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your courage, brilliance and compassion are deeply valued. The Academy on Violence and Abuse is more than just an organization; it's a shared promise that healthcare can be a force for healing and that everyone has the right to live free from violence, abuse, exploitation and their lasting scars.

With deepest appreciation and enduring hope,

THE AVA 20-YEAR COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

Randell Alexander
Susan Kelley
David L. Corwin
Ginger Meyer
David Schneider
Tasneem Ismailji, *chair*
Connor Mulherin

Click this link or scan the code to view the full Celebrating 20 Years of Innovation and Progress





Number of Educational Offerings in 2025

Number of Participants in 2025					
Date	**Professional Development**	**Length of Event**	**Number of Attendees (In Person)**	**Number of Attendees (Zoom)**	**Number of Attendees Total**
1/26/2025	San Diego Chadwick Pre-Conference	8.5 hours	21	9	30
11/5/2025-11/7/2025	Global Health Summit- Salt Lake City, Utah	16.75 hours	44	15	59
January 2025-December 2025	ACEs Health Champions Network (10)	10 (one hour Gatherings)	N/A	1,473	1,473
Total	12 events	35.25 hours	**65**	**1,497**	**1,562**



2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2025 San Diego Chadwick Pre-Conference
January 26, 2025

8:00 am to 8:30 am: Registration
8:30 am to 8:40 am: David Corwin, MD - Introductions and Overview
The Parental Alienation Concept and Laws to Limit its Harm in Family Court
8:40 am to 10:40 am:

- David Corwin, MD, Chair - Addressing Violence and Abuse Concerns Between Separated Parents
- Jean Mercer, PhD - Outcomes of Reunification Therapies for Parental Alienation
- Leah Moses, CNM, MSc, MFA, mother - 14-year custody battle including alleged rape, IPV, child sexual abuse and coercive control with PA cross complaint ending in a child's murder and father's suicide
- Danielle Pollack, MA - New Laws: Kayden's Law and new state laws intended to raise requirements for expert witnesses, exclude concepts and treatments without scientific evidence of effectiveness and safety, and education for family law judges and staff about IPV and child abuse
- Steven Berkowitz, MD, DFAACAP - Discussion

10:40 am to 10:50 am: BREAK
10:50 am to 12:20 pm: Sharon Cooper, MD and Victor Vieth, JD - Why Not to Show Sexually Explicit Images of Victims to them in Child Sexual Abuse Investigations
12:20 pm to 1:30 pm: LUNCH
Innovations in Trauma Informed Care
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm:

- Martina Jelley, MD - Innovations in Trauma-Informed Care
- Eddy Machtinger, MD - Primary Care as a Protective Factor
- Mercie DiGangi, DO - ACEs Screening in Pediatrics – ACEs Aware
- Stan Sonu, MD - Integration of Trauma, Resilience, and Equity in Theory and Practice
- Ellen Goldstein, PhD - Prenatal Intervention for Reducing Stress in Pregnancy

Megha Shankar, MD - Caring for families of immigrants

To view the recordings of the 2025 San Diego Preconference Click this link or Scan the QR Code

ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2025 San Diego Chadwick Pre-Conference
January 26, 2025

















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ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

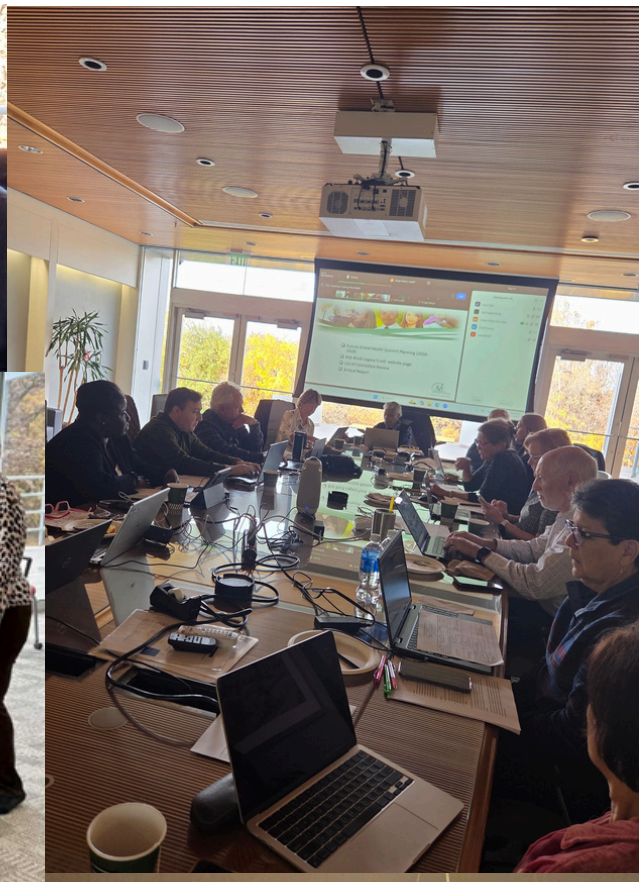
2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Global Health Summit In-Person Board Meeting
Salt Lake City, Utah

The annual AVA board meeting was held in conjunction with the Global Health Summit and was a hybrid model to accommodate all board members.















ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Global Health Summit
Salt Lake City, Utah
November 6 - 7, 2025

The 2025 AVA Global Health Summit provided a collegial environment for participants to meet, network and learn the latest science and practice addressing violence and abuse treatment and prevention.

For a complete Agenda and Program List Click on this link or Scan the QR Code

To veiw the recordings of the GHS 2025 Click on this link or scan the QR Code



ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Global Health Summit Salt Lake City, Utah November 6 - 7, 2025

Acknowledgements

Truly Grateful for you.

AVA Global Health Summit Planning Committee

Randell Alexander
Susan Hardie
Sharon Cooper
Christine Forke
Martina Jelley
Marie Christensen
Peter Cronholm
David Schneider
David Corwin
Tasneem Ismailji

Scientific Review Committee

Martina Jelley
Peter Cronholm
Christine Forke

Thank You

Awards Committee

Dave Corwin
Nora Montalvo Liendo
Tasneem Ismailji
Marie Christensen

20th Anniversary Celebration Committee:

Randy Alexander
David L Corwin
Tasneem Ismailji-chair
Susan Kelley
Ginger Meyer
Connor Mulherin
David Schneider

Special Thanks to:
Jeanne Metner
Kirsten Perry
Connor Mulherin

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ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Global Health Summit Salt Lake City, Utah November 6 - 7, 2025

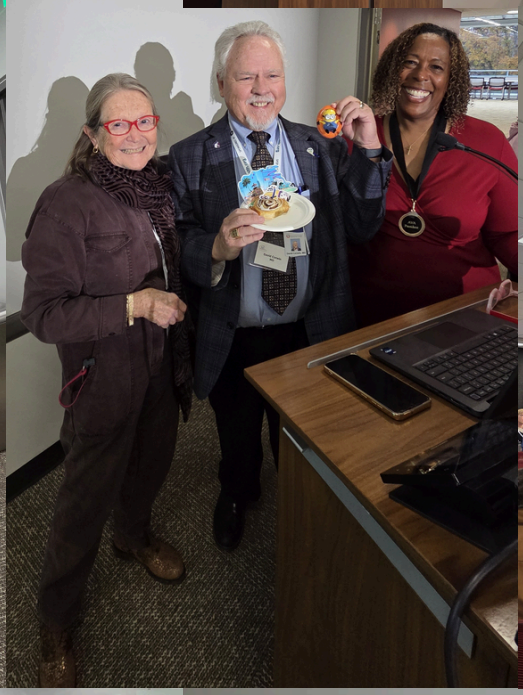
HIGHLIGHTS

















2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Global Health Summit
Salt Lake City, Utah
November 6 - 7, 2025

LEADERSHIP CHANGE

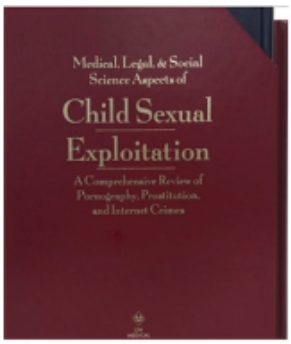




Passing the Torch



Sharon Cooper, MD, AVA President 2025-2027



ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH



2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Global Health Summit
Salt Lake City, Utah
November 6 - 7, 2025
20th Anniversary Celebration



























2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Global Health Summit Award Recipients 2025

AVA Vincent J. Felitti Distinguished Scholar Award

This annual award is presented to an outstanding healthcare professional who has made and is continuing to make significant contributions to advance education and research on the prevention, recognition, and treatment of the health effects of violence and abuse. In 2025, AVA presented this award to:

Brooks Keeshin, MD





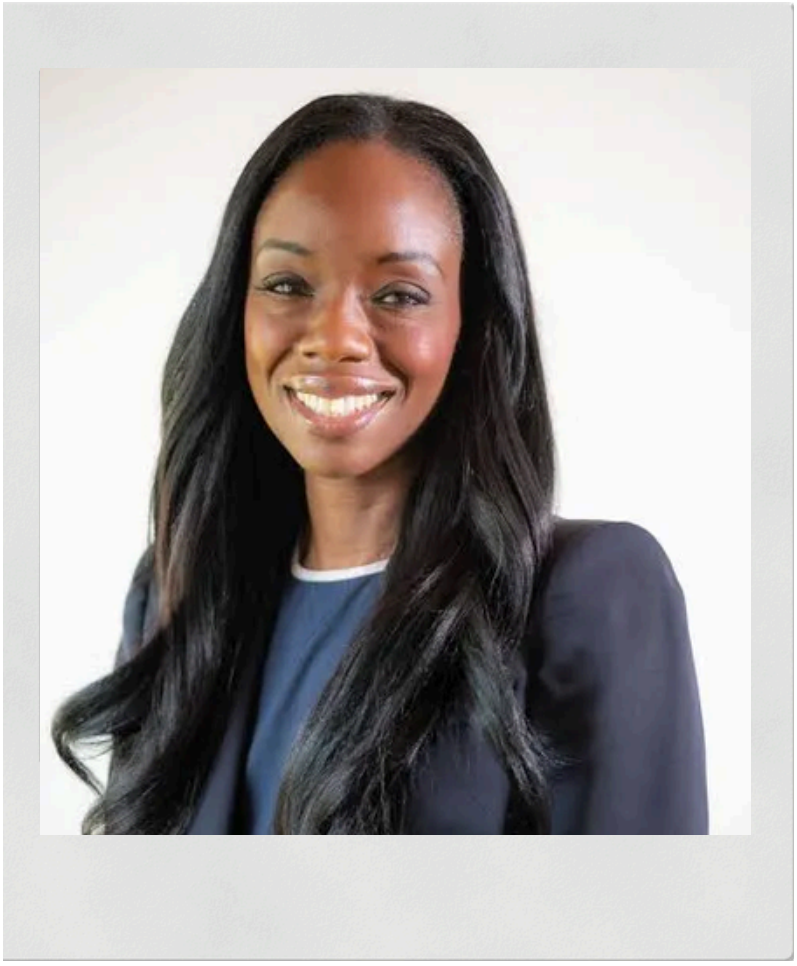
2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AVA Global Health Summit Award Recipients 2025

Change Maker Award

This award is given by AVA to honor individuals that have demonstrated exceptional ability to advance the mission of AVA and whose work has a broad impact on our global community. In 2025, AVA presented this award to:

Nadine Burke Harris, MD,MPH, FAA





ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

ACEs Health Champions Network (AHCN) and Gatherings

The ACEs Health Champions Network (AHCN) strives to build an ever-expanding community of health-focused individuals, organizations, and institutions dedicated to the health effects and prevention of violence and abuse throughout the life course. The Network's concerns include Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), toxic stress, advancing trauma-informed care, strengths and protective factors, and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs). The ACEs Health Champions Network aims to share and disseminate emerging knowledge to promote wellness and healing from the health effects of violence and abuse.

AHCN has several key goals. It aims to create an ever-expanding, vibrant community of individuals and systems dedicated to promoting health and well-being. AHCN fosters meaningful connections and collaborations among health professionals, experts, and champions through regular virtual Gatherings. These Gatherings serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovative ideas related to various aspects of the health effects of violence and abuse. The Network strives to educate, inspire, and connect its members to take proactive steps in their lives and communities to improve overall health. By fostering a supportive and informed environment, the ACEs Health Champions Network contributes to advancing wellness initiatives and positively impacting people's lives. The **2025 Organizations in the Network are:**

apsac Association of Professionals Solving the Abuse of Children in partnership with THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING

AAP-CA1 CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 1 American Academy of Pediatrics

CAPSAC The California Professional Society on the Abuse of Children *Strengthening Practice Through Knowledge*

ESPERANZA UNITED

ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

SACRED SPACES

zero abuse PROJECT

THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING

Institute for Human Services — Child Maltreatment Policy Resource Center

FLAPSAC Florida Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

APSAC-NY an independent affiliate of APSAC



The 2025 Planning Team

Dr. Tasneem Ismailji, AVA, lead
Dr. Susan Hardie, AVA
Dr. Randy Alexander, AVA and FLAPSAC
Dr. Suzanne Frank, Champion of Champions, AAP/CA1
Dr. Colleen Friend, CAPSAC
Ms. Leslie Brand, APSAC-NY
Dr. Akeem Marsh, APSAC, and Ms. Brittany Morris, New York Foundling
Mr. Trevor Raushi, New York Foundling
Dr. Lillie Macias, Esperanza United
Ms. Ateret Cope and Ms. Marina Awerback, Sacred Spaces
Dr. Daria Palatna, Institute for Human Services
Mr. Victor Vieth, Zero Abuse Project
Mr. Connor Mulherin, AVA Administrative Director and tech guru.



academy on violence & abuse

Celebrating 5 Years of ACEs Health Champions Gatherings

PEOPLE
CONNECTION
KNOWLEDGE
KINDER
HEALTHIER
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

Connecting, educating, and inspiring a global community.

46
Gatherings Recorded

14,859
Individuals Reached
Across the United States and 12 Other Countries

20,000
Visits to the AVA Website in 2025

BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE

AHCN is an innovative educational system designed to bridge knowledge and practice in the emerging field of trauma-informed health care. It is an adaptive system, responsive to new evidence and community needs. This modern model of integrated interprofessional development is dynamic, inclusive, and transformational. By weaving together the latest research, scholarship, and collaboration, the ACEs Health Champions Network has become a vibrant space for cultivating health champions who are leading change in their communities and beyond.

The ACEs Health Champions Network connects a growing community of Health Champions—clinicians, educators, advocates, and policy makers committed to integrating ACEs science and resilience into health systems and communities.



ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Date	Hot Topic	Presenter	Length of Event	Number of Registrants	Total Number of Virtual Attendees
1/15/2025	What is the impact of racism on the physical and mental health of my patients?	Akeem Marsh, MD, DFAACAP	1 hour	350	144
2/20/2025	Youth with Problematic Sexual Behavior on Sex Offender Registries: Risk or Benefit?	Janet Rosenzweig, MS, PhD, MPA Mike Nowlin, MSSA, LISW-S	1 hour	269	129
3/27/2025	When Fake Images Cause Real Harm: The Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Addressing AI-Generated CSAM	Jessica Schidlow, Esq.	1 hour	267	141
4/24/2025	Sibling Sexual Abuse: A Variant of Childhood Sexual Abuse or an Entirely Different Experience?	Anat Talmon, PhD Tova Lewin, BA	1 hour	640	389
5/30/2025	Can Faith Based Institutions Prevent Child Maltreatment and Contribute to Healing?	Rev. Dr. Darrell Armstrong, M.Div., Ed.S.-MFT, D.D.	1 hour	147	70
6/13/2025	Is it possible to break through the silence of trauma?	Rocio Chang, Psy.D. Jennifer Greco	1 hour	222	105



ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Date	Hot Topic	Presenter	Length of Event	Number of Registrants	Total Number of Attendees
9/12/2025	Do custody issues interfere with Child Maltreatment Reporting, Assessment and Treatment?	Seth Goldstein	1 hour	426	190
10/3/2025	How can you help close the "ACEs Gap"? (You probably didn't know there even was a gap!)	Phil Arklow	1 hour	208	118
11/17/2025	From Silos to Synergy: Tri-Sector Multidisciplinary Alliances for Immigrant Thriving	Divya Chhabra, MD	1 hour	172	78
12/9/2025	Behind the Screen: How Does Online Exploitation Target Our Youth -- and How Can We Fight Back?	Trevor Raushi Tracy Etienne	1 hour	235	109
Total	**10 events**	**Various**	**10 hours**	**2,936**	**1,473**

All Gatherings are recorded and can be viewed on the AVA website.

Scan QR code for more information & full recordings of ACES Health Champions Network (AHCN) Gatherings



ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

AVA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Purpose:

The Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) Scholars Program is a mentorship program designed to improve the ability of junior researchers to conduct high-quality research and to enter productive careers focused on understanding and minimizing the effects of violence and abuse on people's health.

Rationale:

Violence and abuse are prevalent and adversely affect health across the life course. One approach to mitigate the impact of violence and abuse on health is to advance research on the prevention, recognition, and treatment of the health effects of violence and abuse.

The number of researchers conducting this work is relatively small, and funding is scarce. One way to improve researchers' success is to provide role models and mentors to junior violence researchers.

2024-2026 AVA SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS



Daji (Darejan) Dvalishvili, PhD, MSW, MD
Post-doctoral Fellow
College of Social Work
Florida State University
dvalishvilid@vcu.edu

Mentor: Martina Jelley, MD, MSPH, FACP

My long-term goal as a researcher is to locate modifiable mechanisms and engage in the testing of policy and program approaches to advance knowledge to improve outcomes for children and families involved in child protection and other social welfare systems. As an immigrant myself, I am also interested in potential bidirectional learning and experience sharing between national (US) and global approaches to prevent child maltreatment (CM) and other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and ameliorate adverse mental and physical health outcomes associated with ACEs. The focus on health inequality and disparity stems from my medical background, and the significant literature indicating the need for cross-system and interdisciplinary collaborative efforts to support child and family well-being.

Growing up in the Republic of Georgia, one of the poorest post-Soviet countries, formed my research interests in the intersections of poverty, CM, and other ACEs. Initially trained as a physician, a bio-psycho-social social work paradigm provided me with a more comprehensive lens to see the intersectionality of marginalization. My interests in health disparity and child protection required a focus on issues of poverty and understanding the structural barriers families and children face that place some communities and racial/ethnic groups at much greater risk of being poor and thus, experiencing adverse outcomes. Understanding the intersection of poverty with diverse populations as a stressor while considering the strengths of a family including its culture and resources is becoming an essential part of thinking about child outcomes in research, practice, policy, and teaching.

Thus, my scholarship focuses on child and family well-being and specifically the etiology and consequences of CM and other ACEs. For the past decade, my work has been focused on the role of poverty amid growing concerns about the overrepresentation of poor children and families in the child protection system (CPS) and the high social and financial costs associated with child poverty and maltreatment. I have approached these issues both from basic and applied research perspectives. Within the realm of exploring the consequences of poverty, CM, and ACEs, I am particularly interested in the impact of economic interventions on children's out-of-home placement and their mental and physical health.

Proposed Research Project: Are we causing harm by routine screening for ACEs? Ethical, Practical, and Evidentiary Challenges

2024 - 2026 AVA SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS



Mehak Kaur, DO
Resident Physician
Doernbecher Children's Hospital
Oregon Health and Science University
mehak.kaur@westernu.edu

Mentor: Randell Alexander, MD, PhD

Through many early life experiences working with diverse groups of people, I knew that I wanted a career that served vulnerable populations and one that specifically allowed me to advocate for the health, safety and literacy of children. Knowing that I was passionate about working with children and increasing their quality of life, I was intentional in the opportunities I sought throughout my undergraduate career as well as medical school. I scoped out experiences such as working at a child development center during my time at university as well as filling my schedule with pediatric rotations during my medical education. All of those experiences lead me to match at my number one choice pediatric residency at Oregon Health & Science University and Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Being a first year pediatric resident physician, allows me the opportunity to not only care for children with complex medical and social conditions but also allows me the thrill of getting to work with children and help them sculpt their own futures through perseverance and autonomy. As a resident pediatrician, I have the honor of working on a multi-disciplinary team to take care of ill children in both hospital and outpatient clinical settings. As a first year resident I am the first point of contact for emergent issues as well as coordination of care to help provide the most efficient and quality hospital experience for my patients and their families.

My role gives me the opportunity to advocate for my patients every day, whether it is through practicing shared decision making with parents about what medications to use for treatment, or working with social workers, school teachers and other community partners such as DHS to make sure my patients are growing in safe environments, every interaction is centered around providing the most unique, patient-centered care to my patients, who truly deserve the best. Certain experiences however, have sparked my interest even more, one major one being, working in child advocacy centers to both mitigate child abuse but also bringing resources and supports to those who have survived child abuse. I completed a total of 6 weeks of child abuse medicine during medical school, and another 4 weeks in residency so far working with our suspected child abuse and neglect team (SCAN). These experiences showed me just how destructive child abuse can be to emotional and social development of young children. These rotations have further solidified my passion in mitigating child abuse, specifically child sexual abuse, and its downstreat ramifications. In my future career, I hope to pursue general pediatrics, either in hospital medicine or outpatient community practice while also working as a child abuse specialist at a local child advocacy center. I am most passionate about decreasing barriers to disclosure of child sexual abuse in vulnerable populations.

Proposed Research Project: Understanding factors leading to nondisclosure of childhood sexual abuse in immigrant populations

2024-2026 AVA SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS



Christine Forke, PhD, MSN, CRNP, CPNP-PC
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
forke@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Mentor: Peter Cronholm, MD, MSCE, CAQHPM, FAAFP

As a public health researcher and educator, I have dedicated my career to understanding how early adversity influences lifelong health and ensuring this knowledge informs workforce training as well as the development of prevention and intervention efforts. Trained as an epidemiologist and pediatric nurse practitioner with expertise in adolescent health, trauma-informed care, and social determinants of health, I have centered my work on identifying patterns of teen dating violence and other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that place youth – and in many cases, families across generations – at risk for preventable physical, mental, and behavioral health challenges. My commitment to addressing ACEs stems from my work studying behavioral and health outcomes that commonly emerge during adolescence and caring for teens in urban reproductive health settings, where the persistent effects of trauma, inequity, and structural barriers are impossible to ignore.

I have been driven by questions of how experiences of adversity become biologically and socially embedded, how those pathways might be exacerbated by co-occurring adversities originating outside the home, and how protective or mitigating factors can interrupt these processes. My multidisciplinary training has allowed me to draw on epidemiology, developmental science, and clinical expertise to better understand childhood adversity at individual, family, and community levels. I have been especially motivated by opportunities to collaborate with other scholars, clinicians, and community stakeholders to ensure that research findings directly inform practice, training, and system-level policies.

My work as an AVA Scholar focuses on intergenerational linkages between ACE exposure and health outcomes, a critical but underexplored dimension of ACE science. By examining how patterns of adversity and resilience are transmitted across generations, my goal is to illuminate sex differences and modifiable factors that can disrupt cycles of trauma and improve health and well-being for parents and their children. This work aligns closely with my broader commitment to trauma-informed, equity-focused approaches that recognize the complex contexts in which families live. Ultimately, I hope that my scholarship will help strengthen prevention efforts, enhance clinical and community responses to trauma, and contribute to systems that promote health and safety for all families.

Proposed Research Project: Intergenerational Childhood Adversity and Child Health: Parental ACEs and the Protective Influence of Supportive Adults



ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Promoting Research Dissemination with Communities

AVA Regional Academies

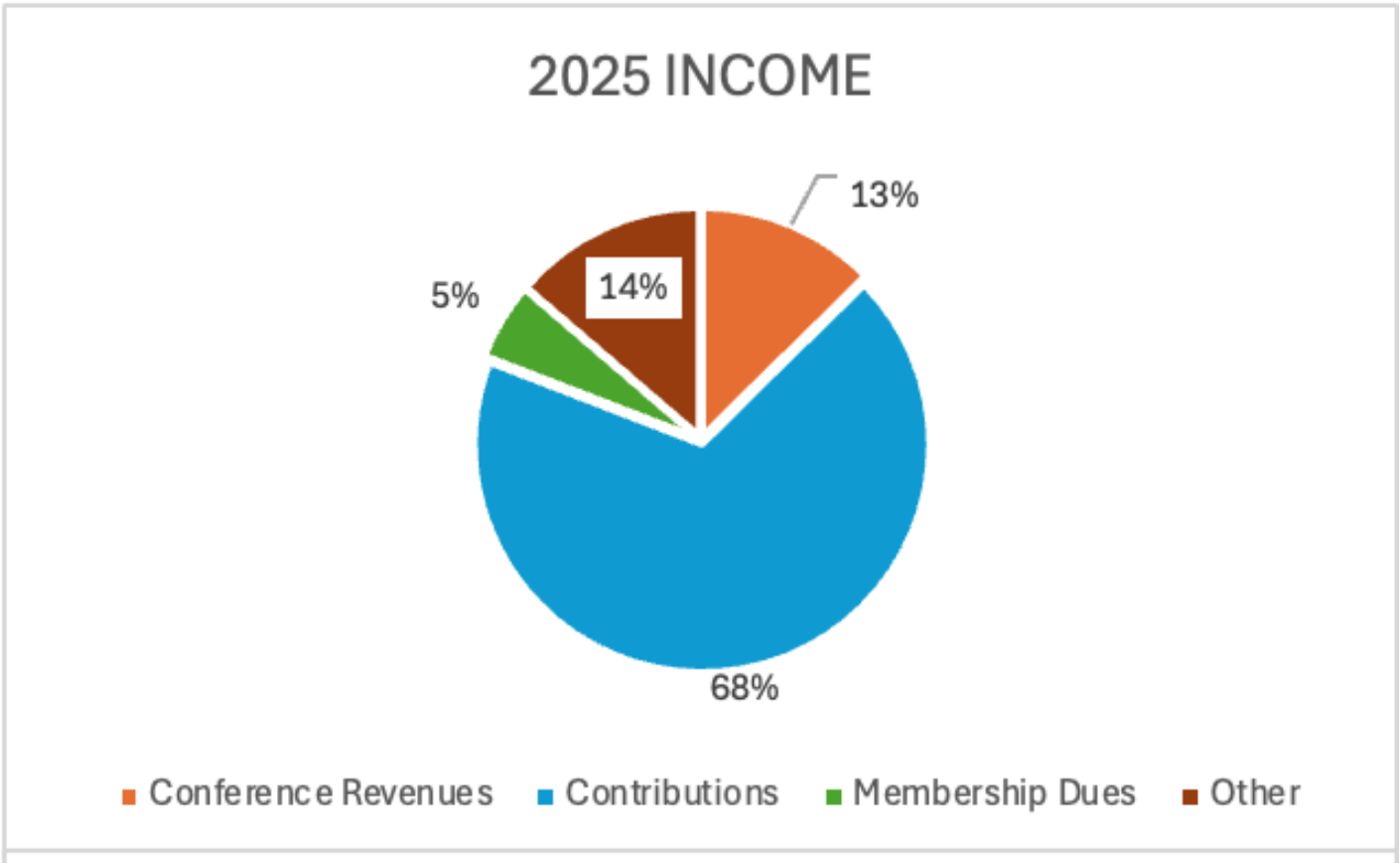
The Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) offers Regional Academies in collaboration with local leaders who are committed to developing trauma-informed, resilient communities. AVA works closely with host communities to identify participating disciplines and customize each Regional Academy to address local and regional priorities.

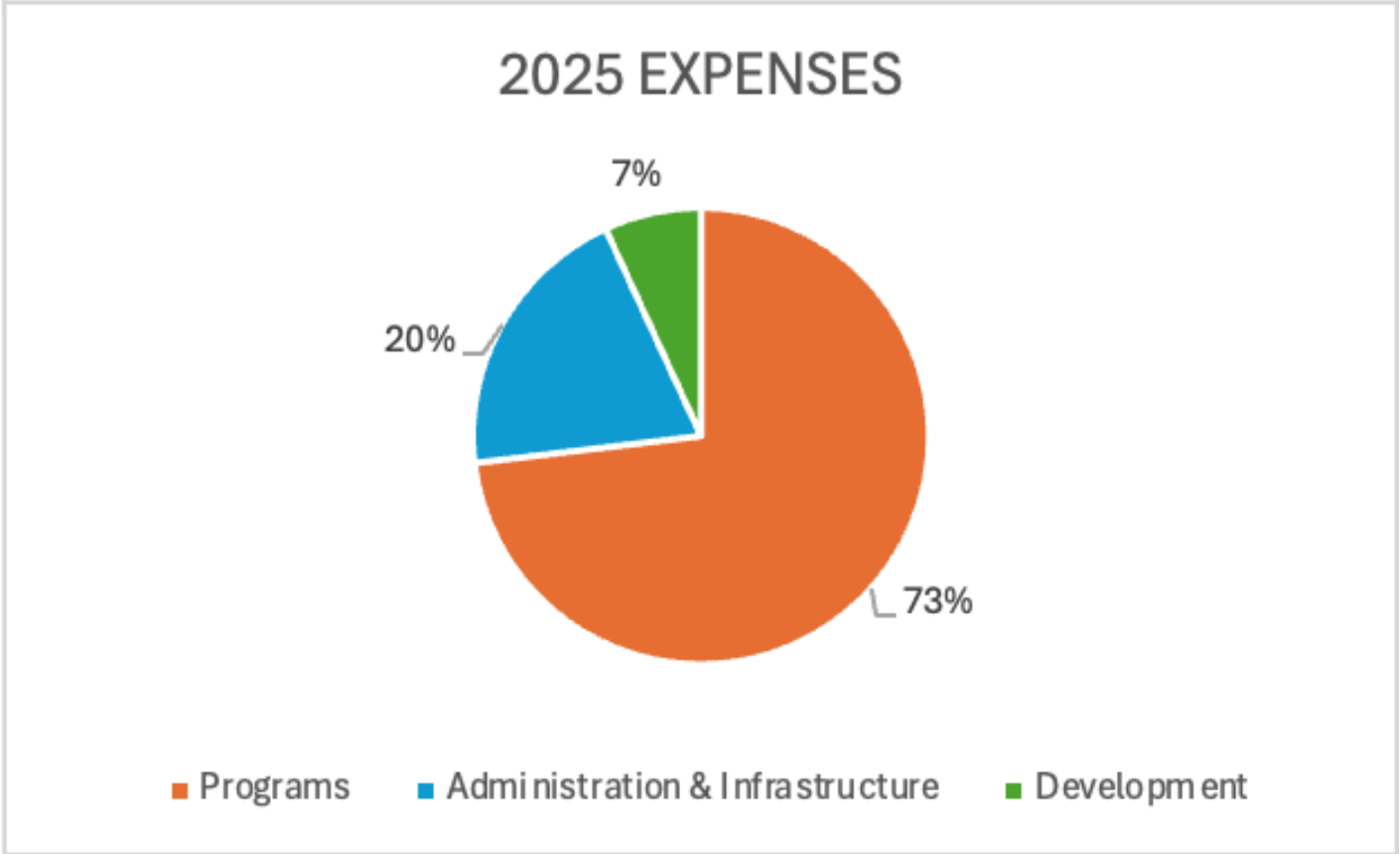
Regional Academy programming is grounded in the extensive body of scientific research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Rather than teaching a specific clinical intervention, the training disseminates essential knowledge, establishes a shared language, and brings community leaders and professionals together around a common understanding of trauma and its lifelong effects. This collaborative approach helps support meaningful cultural change across medical, mental health, social service, education, and other community systems.
Topics may include:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Trauma-informed care and treatment
- ACEs and long-term health outcomes
- The biological effects of childhood trauma
- Strategies for strengthening resilience
- Trauma-informed child and family programs
- ACEs screening in pediatric care
- Clinical approaches to addressing trauma

Regional Academies provide communities with a powerful foundation for understanding how childhood trauma affects individuals, families, neighborhoods, and future generations. By building shared knowledge and strengthening cross-disciplinary partnerships, these academies help communities begin the long-term process of creating more responsive, supportive, and resilient systems.
Communities interested in hosting a Regional Academy are encouraged to contact AVA to discuss their needs and explore opportunities for collaboration.

2025 Financials







2025 Financials

Beginning Net Assets		**$166,356**	
Income	Conference Revenues	10,388	13%
	Contributions	56,055	68%
	Membership Dues	4,475	5%
	Other	11,266	14%
	Total Income	**82,184**	**100%**
Expenses	Programs	58,637	73%
	Administration & Infrastructure	16,055	20%
	Development	5,516	7%
	Total Expenses	**80,208**	**100%**
Income less expenses		1,976	
Unrealized loss on Investments		(3,433)	
Ending Net Assets		**$164,899**	



ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Gratitude for 2025 Donors

We know you have a lot of choices when it comes to donating, and we are so grateful that you chose to donate to AVA. We promise to be responsible stewards of both your donation and your trust. Thank you for your support and for your belief in the mission of AVA. We simply couldn't do what we do without amazing people like you.

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Thank You!



Gratitude for Board Support and Contributions

AVA has a dedicated board of professionals who generously contribute their time and expertise. These essential in-kind contributions enable AVA to continue thriving in its mission.

2025 Board Member Contributions

Randell Alexander - Governance Committee, Scholar Committee, Global Health Summit Planning Committee, ACEs Health Champions Network

Shira Berkovits - Board Member

Marie Christensen - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Admin Committee, Executive Committee, Website Committee, Awards Committee

Sharon Cooper - Board Member, President-Elect, Admin Committee, Governance Committee, ACEs Health Champions Gathering Presenter

David Corwin - Board Member, San Diego Pre-con, Website Committee, Governance Committee, Awards Committee, ACEs Health Champions Gathering, Global Health Summit Planning Committee, facilitated University sponsorship/support for educational activities.

Peter Cronholm - Board Member, Executive Committee, Scientific Review Committee, Scholar Committee.

Christine Forke- Board Member, Global Health Summit Planning Committee, Scientific Review Committee and Presenter, Website Committee, Membership Committee

Susan Hardie- Board Member, Membership Committee, ACEs Health Champions Gatherings Committee, Pre-Con Institute Presenter, Website Committee.

Indira Henard- Board Member, Finance Committee, Website Committee

Tasneem Ismailji - Board Member, ACEs Health Champions Network, Website Committee, Finance Committee, Scholar Committee, Governance Committee, Awards Committee, Global Health Summit Presenter, San Diego Pre-Con Presenter.

Allison Jackson - Board Member, President, Board Chair, Admin Committee, Executive Committee, Governance Committee.

Martina Jelley - Board Member, Global Health Summit Planning Committee and Presenter, Co-Founder of TIHCER.

Machelle Madsen Thompson - Board Member

Ginger Meyer - Board Member, Board Chair, Admin Committee, Governance Committee, Regional Academy Presenter, Regional Academy Planning Committee, Global Health Summit Planner, San Diego Pre-Con Planning Committee and assisted with planning, and facilitated University support for educational offerings through grant funding.

Nora Montalvo-Liendo- Board Member, Scholars Committee

Hanna Reach- Board Member

Rebecca Rodriguez-Pou - Board Member

David Schneider - Board Member, Executive Committee, Governance Committee

Susie Wiet - Board Member

2026 Initiatives







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AVA is a non-profit, academic, membership-based organization. Our membership includes a variety of health care professionals, and individuals who are committed to the mission and vision of the Academy. We continue to expand health education and research and integrate knowledge about violence and abuse into the training of all health professionals to promote safe families, workplaces and communities.

SHARE OUR MISSION

Increase awareness regarding the effects of violence and abuse on health is critical. Please consider helping us by sharing this information with your colleagues and friends.

To view this annual report online, scan the QR Code



ACADEMY ON VIOLENCE & ABUSE

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

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