

NYSPA Leadership Institute 2016-2017 Fellow: Fabienne Bain, PhD



Fabienne Bain, PhD, has always seized every opportunity to fulfill her personal vision, and despite the several obstacles she has faced, she resolved that only the measure of her drive to succeed would limit the realization of her goals. As the daughter of Haitian immigrants, born and raised in Canada, she had to overcome the struggles of pursuing an education in a different country and language other than her mother tongue. Furthermore, to afford a university education, she sought and received a basketball scholarship from Nova Southeastern University in

Florida where she completed a bachelor in psychology. While in Florida, Dr. Bain worked as a verbal-behavioral therapist with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This experience triggered her interest in working with children with ASD and their caregivers and taught her how she could help others overcome their challenges to achieve their full potential.

To complement her related work, Dr. Bain joined the McGill Youth Study Team (MYST) directed by Jacob Burack, Ph.D., a leading researcher on development, cognition, and attention among persons with ASD. Her membership in the MYST group made her aware of how persistent and determined one has to be to work successfully in the field, and to acquire a doctoral degree. Gaining access to a higher education always seemed like an impossible dream, however, she made history in her family by becoming the first doctoral graduate when was accepted in the Combined Counseling Psychology/School Psychology program at the University at Buffalo.

While in graduate school, Dr. Bain did several practicums in educational, medical, and research centers where she completed numerous diagnostic evaluations, provided counseling, consultation, and assessment to youth with a variety of disabilities and mental health issues. Additionally, it was important for Dr. Bain to sought clinical experiences that would benefit culturally diverse populations; therefore, she worked with First Nations young in northern regions of Canada, in Accra, Ghana with urban communities' youth as well as in Buffalo inner-city low-income families.

Subsequently, Dr. Bain pursued both an internship and a postdoctoral fellowship in Clinical Psychology on the Child & Adolescent Track at the University of Rochester Medical Center

(URMC). Working at the URMC allowed her to expand her clinical experience with children, adolescents, and families affected by psychiatric disorders through evidence-based practices within outpatient primary care, inpatient and partial programs, traditional schools, and specialty care pediatric settings. She also continued to deliver treatment to children and their families affected by ASD in addition to providing clinical supervision and collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to improve the psychological health of clients.

Now that she is finishing her fellowship at the URMC, Dr. Bain's career goals involve providing a diverse range of services to children, adolescents, and families in need. She hopes that within five to ten years, she will work in a medical setting as a faculty member and continue to help children and their families throughout several clinical, supervisory, and program development opportunities. Lastly, she aspires to continue to promote the growth and application of the psychology field into a more comprehensive health care.