



July 31, 2025

Dr. Kevin Smith
President & CEO
University Health Network
200 Elizabeth Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2C4

Re: The Dissolution of the Asian Initiative in Mental Health (AIM) Program

Dear Dr. Smith,

The Canadian Psychological Association's (CPA) Asian Psychology Section was founded in June 2024 as a way to combat anti-Asian racism that is embedded in our mental health and academic institutions. Our mission is to strengthen the work of mental health professionals, researchers, and students to increase cultural responsiveness and enhance the collective well-being of Asians in Canada. The Section comprises 93 members, including psychologists, clinicians, researchers, academics, and students, and is dedicated to advocating for the mental health needs of Asian Canadians.

As the Asian Psychology Section Leadership team, we are writing to express concern regarding the closure of the Asian Initiative in Mental Health (AIM) at the University Health Network (UHN). AIM is one of the very few community mental health clinics in Canada that are designed to provide culturally competent psychiatric and psychological care to the Chinese Canadian community. The loss of AIM will have a far-reaching impact on the Chinese, Asian, and racialized community and is a significant step back from the values of culturally responsive and equity-centred care.

The Chinese Canadian community face significant mental health disparities, along with many barriers to mental health care. Now more than ever, Chinese Canadians need mental health support. During the pandemic, the rise of anti-Asian racism was unfathomable and unjust. Such support needs to be culturally responsive and socially just. Expressions of mental health concerns and the type of culturally responsive needs are unique. Harmful stereotypes such as the model minority myth and the perpetual foreigner are pervasive, resulting in necessary care that is often overlooked for this population.

The loss of AIM disrupts care continuity, dismantles culturally grounded mental health programs, erodes collaborative care and trust in the community, and is a loss of cultural psychiatric and clinical training that will have a long-standing impact. We urge you to reconsider this decision regarding AIM. Your support for AIM is crucial because it empowers the broader community, fosters trust, and alleviates the burden on the healthcare system. It is not only ethically compelling, but it also aligns with UHN's organizational priorities and long-term goals.

Sincerely,

The CPA Asian Psychology Section Leadership Team

Dr. Fred Chou, Chair
Maria Kim, Chair-Elect
Dr. Gina Ko, Past Chair
Wei (Daisy) Zhang, Treasurer
Gesthika Kaltsidis, Secretary
Dr. Nigel Lou, Member-at-Large
Baljinder Sull, Member-at-Large
Sandy Chao, Student Member