

Official Statement for SPA President
Joni L Mihura, PhD, ABAP (My CV is housed [here](#))

My first SPA conference was a powerful experience. I was impressed with and grateful for the people I met who were refreshingly reflective, insightful, curious, and interested in understanding people's minds and their lives. The first day, I met and shared dinner with personality assessment experts I had admired from afar. They became real, engaging people—not just names on books. I was on cloud 9.

SPA has been my professional home ever since. I continue to value its ideals, its people, and its learning and networking opportunities. I served on the SPA board of trustees for 5 years and as a JPA consulting editor since 2002. As website editor (2011-2013), I organized interviews ([here](#)) with members for the 75th SPA anniversary in 2013 to provide exemplars of personality assessment psychologists.

Although I am sometimes identified as a “Rorschach person,” my professional identity is grounded in my passion in the diversity of assessment methods. My first 4 articles were on the MMPI-2; my current project is a meta-analysis of the MMPI's (all versions) assessment of psychosis. My research, teaching, and practice incorporates the five-factor model, interpersonal circumplex, MMPI-2 and RF, PAI, MCMI, R-PAS, TAT, Early Memories, and intelligence, achievement, and neuropsychological measures. In my part-time practice and advanced assessment practicum, I employ a collaborative/therapeutic assessment approach.

I am passionate about helping SPA and personality assessment itself be more user-friendly, up-to-date, valuable to its members, and increasing its field-wide impact. My two key strengths are creative problem-solving and tenacity. My solution to the attacks on the Rorschach required a 6-year, 5,000 hour project to publish systematic reviews and meta-analyses for 65 Rorschach variables in [Psychological Bulletin](#), which resulted in the Rorschach critics removing their call for a moratorium on the use of the Rorschach and that served as the backbone for choosing variables for [R-PAS](#). R-PAS itself has provided opportunities to travel to other countries, which has expanded my friendships, my professional networks, and my horizons.

To ensure survival of a multimethod assessment approach, I served on APA's Task Force to Develop Training and Education Guidelines in Assessment, currently [up for Public Comment](#), and I co-edited two practice-oriented assessment books with Virginia Brabender ([The Handbook of Gender and Sexuality in Psychological Assessment](#)) and Greg Meyer ([Using the Rorschach Performance Assessment System® \(R-PAS®\)](#)).

If elected to serve as SPA president, there are three broad goals I would work to accomplish:

1. **Integrate personality assessment into the cutting-edge hierarchical model of psychopathology and transdiagnostic treatments.** These new approaches that move away from the proliferation of DSM-specific treatment manuals create an exciting opportunity *full of potential for personality assessment*.
2. **Enhance understanding of our assessment methods.** We must better describe our assessment methods' key ingredients and their clinical value to assist practitioners and educators.
3. **Update SPA with current-day technologies,** including online practice-focused webinars and a referral network. Involve undergraduates to improve our social media presence and graduate students to update Wikipedia with accurate information about personality assessment.

I am grateful for the opportunity to run for SPA president. I want SPA to be a welcome and invigorating place for diversity in people as well as perspectives. I enjoy building collaborative relationships and taking on challenging tasks. I want SPA members to feel that their membership in SPA is not just valuable but indispensable. I hope to apply my skills along with my enthusiasm for personality assessment if I am elected to lead our society during the coming years.