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4 **The Biological Psychiatry Cover Art Initiative: Addressing the under-representation of Black**
5 **People on the *Journal* cover through a series of commissioned artworks.**
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4 *It is a peculiar sensation, this double consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self*
5 *through the eyes of others...One ever feels this twoness – an American, a Negro... two warring*
6 *ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.*
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9 W.E.B. DuBois, 1897

10 <https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/history/info-2020/quotes-racial-justice.html>
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14 *Biological Psychiatry* is working to address the under-representation of Black, Indigenous, and
15 People of Color (BIPOC) at all levels of Journal activity, i.e., among the editors, editorial board,
16 reviewers, authors, populations that have been studied in published papers, and the questions
17 asked in published research. Two additional ways that BIPOC individuals have been less visible
18 in the *Journal* has been in the art depicted in the covers and the artists who created these
19 depictions.
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23 With support of the leadership of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, the *Journal* has a
24 wonderful opportunity to make a clear statement about its commitment to addressing these
25 issues through a very special collaboration with noted artist Dr. Imo Nse Imeh. Each month for
26 the next six months, the *Journal* will publish on its cover an original painting that has been
27 commissioned by the *Journal*, in collaboration with the Society of Biological Psychiatry. The
28 paintings created by Dr. Imeh will address themselves to topics and themes that are central to
29 the *Journal* and the society. The general conceptual framework for the works has emerged from
30 collaborative meetings between the authors of this article. In these generative meetings, we
31 discussed the mission of the *Journal*, the burden of neuropsychiatric disorders, the relationship
32 between racial identity and health disparities, the experiences of illness and disability, and the
33 ways that neuroscience informs our understanding of the causes, courses, and treatments for
34 these disorders.
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40 The *Journal* is thrilled to collaborate with Dr. Imo Nse Imeh on this project. He is a gifted artist
41 and his work is both deeply meaningful and emotionally impactful. Dr. Imeh is a Nigerian-
42 American artist and scholar of African Diaspora art. He is Professor of Art and Art History at
43 Westfield State University in Massachusetts. After graduating from Columbia University, he
44 received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Art History from Yale University in 2009. Dr. Imeh's work is
45 informed by his background in historical and philosophical issues related to the black body and
46 cultural identity. His studio art projects interrogate the ways in which black bodies are
47 imagined, represented, ritualized, and transformed by the institutions they inhabit and the
48 imperatives they confront. His work has been recognized by the PBS News Hour and other
49 media outlets.
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54 This has been an inspiring project for all of those involved. We believe that others will be
55 inspired by the art, the process that led to its creation, and its appearance on the cover of a
56 scientific journal associated with a leading scientific society. We plan to present and discuss this
57 work at the annual meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry and perhaps other
58 organizations. We hope that this initiative will inspire other scientific journals to follow suit.
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