

Biographical Data and Platform Statements

2022 Candidates

PRESIDENT-ELECT/PRESIDENT (1 POSITION)



Adrian J. Blow, PhD

I am honored and grateful to be nominated for President-Elect of AAMFT. I am dedicated to the field of couple/marital/family therapy with two graduate degrees from COAMFTE programs, a licensed Marital and Family Therapist, and an

instructor in family therapy training programs for 23 years. This election comes at a critical time in our history. In recent years we have endured so much – the COVID pandemic, social injustice on multiple fronts, war, and economic challenges. Our field has been through changes that challenge our identity and practice. Most of us have had to shift our work to telehealth which has brought about stress and opportunities. The pandemic revealed critical shortages in mental health providers that correspond with a rise in mental and relational health difficulties for many, and therapist burnout. Our field has lost many of our respected leaders to death or retirement. While we face trials, our future is bright. We have strong evidence that what we do is as effective as other therapy approaches, and superior in many cases, for a wide range of mental and family health difficulties. Researchers in one recent study report that over the next decade there will be high demand for master-level family therapists. If elected President, my priorities will include the following: 1) To augment our recent progress related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in our association and in our practices with the communities and families with whom we work; 2) To utilize the opportunities of our current time to expand the influence and recognition of MFTs with policy makers; 3) To continue to expand our influence globally to ensure that AAMFT is the international leader in MFT excellence; and 4) To make AAMFT a dynamic and welcoming organization that attracts and retains members who are passionate about systemic therapies.

(I) PRESENT PROFESSIONAL POSITION

- Professor, Department Chair, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Couple and Family Therapy Program, Michigan State University
- Professor, Division of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Michigan State University (2017 to present).
- Private Practice, part time. Okemos, Michigan (2005 to present). Provide individual, couple, and family therapy.

(II) MOST RECENT PAST PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS (WITHIN THE LAST 10 YEARS)

- Program Director, Couple and Family Therapy Program, Michigan State University (2011-2019).

(III) AAMFT MEMBERSHIP: PAST AND PRESENT PARTICIPATION IN AAMFT, INCLUDING DIVISIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Secretary, AAMFT Board of Directors (2012-2014)
- Treasurer, AAMFT Board of Directors (2017-2019)
- Student Member/Clinical Fellow/Member (1992 to present)
- Approved Supervisor (2002 to present)
- Editorial Board, The Journal of Marital and Family Therapy (2006-present)
- AAMFT Leadership Conference (2001)
- Chair, AAMFT Research Foundation Advisory Board (October 2013 to 2015).
- AAMFT Research Foundation Advisory Board (2012 to 2015).
- Chair, Topical Interest Network, Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy (2021 to present)
- Chair, JMFT search committee (2022 to present)

AAMFT Division (Missouri)

- Annual Conference Planning Committee. Served on the organizing committee for the 2002 and 2005 Missouri Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference.
- Treasurer (2004 to 2005)
- Chair, Elections Committee (2001 to 2003)

(IV) PAST AND PRESENT RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Have conducted numerous studies of families and trauma, families and health including military families funded by both Federal and Foundation grants in excess of \$2.5 million.
- Editorial Board, *Contemporary Family Therapy* (2000 to 2013), *Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy* (2012 to 2019); *Family Process* (2022 to present).

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- Select National Presentations
 - o Miller, D. L., Blow, A., & Holtrop, K. (2021, November 11). Core therapist skills supporting the implementation of evidence-based practices with severe emotionally disturbed children: A community engaged, mixed-method Delphi study [Virtual, live presentation]. Systemic Family Therapy Conference, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Virtual Conference, United States. <https://www.networks.aamft.org/conference/home>.
 - o Timm, T. M. & Blow, A. J. (2020, June). An integrative model of affair recovery. AAMFT Institutes for Systemic Family Therapy. Honolulu, Hawaii (presented as a webinar due to COVID-19).
 - o Tseng, C. F., Wittenborn, A., Blow, A. J., Chao, W., & Liu, T. (2019). The Development and Training of Marriage and Family Therapy in East Asia. Research discussion presented at the AAMFT National Conference, Austin, TX.
 - o Parish, W. E., Blow, A. J., & Dwyer, T. (2018). Deepening awareness and utilization of the process in therapy. Workshop presented at the AAMFT National Conference, Louisville, KY.
 - o Mitchell, E., Timm, T. M., Blow, A. J. (2019). An Attachment-Informed Understanding of Affair Recovery. Research discussion presented at the AAMFT National Conference, Austin, TX.
 - o Blow, A. J., Huebner, A., Gorman, L. (2015). Couples' Experiences of Military Deployment. Workshop presented at the AAMFT annual conference.
 - o Johnson, T., Farero, A., Blow, A. J., Gorman, L., Kees, M. (fall, 2015). Fathers in the Military: Implications for Family Therapists. Poster presented at the AAMFT annual conference.
 - o Blow, A.J., Lappan, S., Nichols, E., Subramaniam, S., Farero, A., Gorman, L., Kees, M., Bowles, R. (2015). Couples Coping with Stress: Life in the Military. Poster presented at the AAMFT annual conference.
 - o Karam, E., Blow, A. J., & Davis, S. (2015). Enhancing Therapist Common Factors in MFT Practice. Workshop presented at the AAMFT annual conference.
 - o Blow, A.J., Huebner, A., Hirschfeld, M., Gorman, L., Guty, D., Kees, M. (2014).
 - o Military Couples and Soldier Resilience. Poster presented at Military Health System Research Symposium. Fort Lauderdale, FL.
 - o Gorman, L., Huebner, A., Hirschfeld, M, Blow, A. J. (2014). Post-deployment Issues of National Guard: A Comparative Case Study of how Access to VA Benefits Affect Reintegration with Family and Civilian Employment. Military Health System Research Symposium. Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
 - o Kees, M., Blow, A.J., Gorman, L. Valenstein, M. (August 2014). Collaborative Partnerships to Support National Guard and Reserve Component Military Families. American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.
 - o Blow, A. J., & Jarman, C. (2013). Building Resiliency in Military Children and Families. Workshop presented at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference. Portland, Oregon.
 - o Karam, E., Davis, S., Blow, A.J., & Sprenkle, D. (2013). Integrating Common Factors into MFT Training. Workshop presented at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference. Portland, Oregon.
 - Numerous university service responsibilities since 1999.
 - *Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist: Michigan (2006-present).*
 - *Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist: Missouri (2000-2006).*
 - *Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist: Indiana (1998-2002).*
- (V) PUBLICATIONS – Limit to 3**
- I have published 72 peer-reviewed manuscripts in journals, 13 book chapters, and three books (two which will be published in summer 2022). Here are three sample publications.
- Blow, A. J. (Ed). (2020). Systemic Family Therapy with Couples (Volume 3), *The Handbook of Systemic Family Therapy*, K. S Wampler, Editor in Chief. Hoboken, New Jersey, John Wiley & Sons.
- PettyJohn, M. E., Tseng, C. F., & Blow, A. J. (2020). Therapeutic Utility of Discussing Therapist/Client Intersectionality in Treatment: When and How? *Family Process*, 59(2), 313-327. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12471>
- Blow, A. J., Sprenkle, D. H., & Davis, S. D. (2007). Is who delivers the treatment more important than the treatment itself? The role of the therapist in common factors. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 33, 298-317.