Dr. Rahn Kennedy Bailey, associate professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Meharry Medical College, will be installed as president of the National Medical Association (NMA) on July 31 during the NMA 2012 Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly in New Orleans. NMA represents more than 50,000 African-American physicians and is the largest and oldest national organization representing these physicians and the patients they serve.

Dr. Bailey begins his term as the 113th NMA president with an eye toward implementing a policy agenda that includes support of the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act.

Additionally, his administration will focus on eliminating health disparities and raising awareness of the unmet need for mental health care for African Americans.

“Health care policy is changing rapidly and, for more than 100 years, the National Medical Association has been at the forefront of the effort to provide quality health care for medically underserved populations,” Bailey said. “I look forward to expanding my commitment to the NMA as we continue to make a difference in meeting the health care needs of all Americans.”

Dr. Bailey is double board certified in general psychiatry and forensic psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He has extensive expertise in forensic cases involving, but not limited to, establishing competency to stand trial, competency to be executed, child custody, clinical malpractice, fitness for duty, sexually violent predators, insanity and medical malpractice.

A graduate of Morehouse College, Dr. Bailey received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. He completed his residency in psychiatry at the University of Texas at Houston and completed a fellowship in forensic psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry at Yale University, School of Medicine.

Dr. Bailey has been a longstanding member of the NMA, serving as section chair of the psychiatry section, secretary of the House of Delegates, vice speaker of the House of Delegates and, most recently, speaker of the NMA House of Delegates, the governing body of the association. Additionally, he was the chairman for the Katrina Response Effort of the NMA. In this capacity, he led teams of physicians in treating the mental health needs of those displaced by the hurricane. In January 2010, Dr. Bailey traveled to Haiti with the National Medical Association to provide medical care for the basic needs of Haitian residents after the 2010 Haiti earthquake.
Bailey said that the NMA and Meharry, which is dedicated to serving medically underserved populations, will be intricately involved during his presidential year because the organizations have parallel goals.

“Both organizations want health care to be affordable, available and of high quality for everyone,” Bailey said.