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Sherry Pagoto inducted as Society of Behavioral Medicine president-elect

SAN DIEGO, CA –University of Massachusetts Medical School Professor Sherry L. Pagoto, PhD, began her term as President-Elect of the Society of Behavioral Medicine on Saturday.

The Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) is a 2,300-member organization of scientific researchers, clinicians and educators. Behavioral medicine is an interdisciplinary field devoted to understanding human behavior as it pertains to physical health, wellness, and the development of disease. Scientists and clinicians in this field work to develop and implement behavioral and public health interventions that promote health, prevent disease and/or increase the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Pagoto was inducted as SBM President-Elect during the Society's 38th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, held Wednesday through Saturday in San Diego, CA. She officially began her one-year term during the Society's business meeting Saturday morning. She will become Society president in April 2018.

Pagoto was selected as President-Elect through a vote by SBM members. She has been an actively engaged member of SBM for 17 years, holding numerous professional roles including representing SBM on Capitol Hill visits to champion science funding and prevention science, specifically.

As President, Pagoto will be seeking opportunities to increase the role of behavioral science in patient care, the digital health industry, and health policy. Partnerships with stakeholders in these spaces will create synergies that will facilitate greater movement toward the Healthy People 2020 goal of improved health of all Americans.

"Behavioral science has an enormous knowledge base that is ready for implementation in so many contexts," Pagoto explained. "The next step for us is creating partnerships that will facilitate that implementation. I'd like to send the message to industry, patients and advocates, legislators, and scientists in other disciplines: Let's connect!"

Pagoto is a tenured Professor of Medicine in the Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine in the Department of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She is co-founder of the UMass Center for mHealth and Social Media and Co-Chair of the National Indoor Tan-Free Skin Smart Campus. She is also a licensed clinical psychologist and expert in health behavior change.

Pagoto's research is focused on leveraging digital health in the treatment of obesity and cancer prevention. She has nearly 160 papers on these topics in top journals including JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine, among others.

She has received several awards for her work including the UMass Medical School Women in Science and Health Achievement Award in 2015, The Obesity Society Pioneer in mHealth/eHealth Award in

2014, and the Western Michigan University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011. Devoted to science communication she has contributed to US News and World Report, Salon, Chronicle of Higher Education, Psychology Today, and KevinMD.com.

The Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) is a 2,200-member organization of scientific researchers, clinicians and educators. They study interactions among behavior, biology and the environment, and translate findings into interventions that improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. Visit www.sbm.org.

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