



Alexander J. Rothman, PhD

Biographical Sketch

Alexander (Alex) Rothman is a Professor in the Department of Psychology. He received his doctoral training in social psychology from Yale University and has been on the faculty at the University of Minnesota since 1995. Dr. Rothman's primary program of research concerns the development and application of basic psychological principles to advance illness prevention and health promotion and is comprised of a synthesis of basic research on how people process and respond to health information with the development and evaluation of theory-based interventions to promote healthy behavior. Working across a broad array of health domains, Dr. Rothman and his colleagues have contributed to our understanding of a range of issues including why and when different health communication strategies are most effective, the decision processes that underlie the initiation and maintenance of behavior change, and the development of strategies for optimizing the integration of theory and practice. Dr. Rothman received the APA 2002 Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Health Psychology and is a fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the Society for Health Psychology, the European Health Psychology Society, the Association of Psychological Science, and the Society of Personality and Social Psychology. Dr. Rothman has extensive experience in leadership positions. At the University of Minnesota, he served a five-year term as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs. He recently completed a term as President of the Society for Health Psychology and was the founding President of the Social Personality and Health Network. Within SBM, he served as a founding co-Chair of the Theories and Techniques of Behavior Change Interventions SIG and has contributed extensively to the conference program through participation in symposia/paper sessions and workshops. Dr. Rothman has served as Associate Editor of *Health Psychology Review*, as a co-editor of several special issues, including one in *Health Psychology* on theoretical innovations in social and personality psychology and their implications for health, and serves on several Editorial Boards including *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. Dr. Rothman has been a leading advocate for forging tighter linkages between theories of health behavior and intervention practices and policies. To this end, he has contributed to a range of NIH-initiatives including having co-developed and led the NCI/NIH-sponsored Advanced Training Institute on Health Behavior Theory and currently co-chairing the NCI Cognitive, Affective, and Social Processes in Health Workgroup, and the NHLBI/NIH Accumulating Data to Optimally Predict Obesity Treatment (ADOPT) Core Measures Project.

Personal Statement

I have been engaged with the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) since 1998. Over these twenty years, I have contributed to paper sessions, debates, and symposia, led pre-conference workshops, and served as co-chair of the Theories and Techniques of Behavior Change Interventions SIG. I have consistently appreciated SBM as a place that brings together a community of scholars who are pursuing similar goals, but are doing so utilizing different theoretical perspectives and different methods, and engaging with questions at different levels of analysis. I have also greatly valued how SBM has changed over the years as it has strived to be responsive to the evolving needs of its members, of the disciplines it engages with, and of the broader world in which we live. I would be honored to serve the members of SBM as a Member-Delegate to the Board and to give back to SBM through the contribution of my time and energy toward the on-going success of the Society. Although my work on the Board will be shaped by the emerging needs of the membership and the goals and vision of the Society's current and future leadership, I would hope to be able to contribute to advancements in several areas. First, SBM is developing exciting ways – such as the Behavior Change Grand Rounds Webinar series -- to support and enhance the work of its members outside of the annual meeting. I hope to help build on these innovations and explore strategies that would enable the society's members to engage with each other throughout the year. Second, I have a long-standing interest and commitment to training. At the University of Minnesota, I have been actively involved in the training and support of graduate students as well as junior faculty, across disciplinary areas. I also helped develop and lead the NCI/NIH Advanced Training Institute on Health Behavior Theory. Given on-going innovations in theory, methodology, and statistical analysis, investigators – throughout all phases of their career – would benefit from opportunities to expand and enrich their skills. I would like to explore how the Society can continue to address these needs. Third, I believe organizations such as SBM can provide essential support to innovations in scientific practices and provide a forum for its members to imagine and develop innovations that will enhance the quality of their work and, in turn, maximize its impact on both theory and practice.