

SOCIETY *of* BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Better Health Through Behavior Change

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Marian Fitzgibbon inducted as Society of Behavioral Medicine president

SAN ANTONIO – University of Illinois at Chicago professor Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD, began her term as president of the Society of Behavioral Medicine on Saturday.

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.

Fitzgibbon was inducted as SBM president during the society's 36th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, held Wednesday through Saturday in San Antonio. She officially began her one-year term during the society's business meeting on Saturday morning.

Fitzgibbon was elected to the presidency through a vote by SBM members. She is an SBM fellow and spent the past year as president-elect. She has served as chair of the society's Health Policy Committee and Obesity and Eating Disorders Special Interest Group.

Fitzgibbon sees opportunities to further the mission of SBM by using technological advances to strengthen communication across populations and in intervention dissemination.

"Social media has transformed our patterns of communication," she said. "It is critical that SBM be at the forefront of understanding and testing the impact and effectiveness of these technologies."

Fitzgibbon is also committed to stimulating successful interdisciplinary collaborations and to preparing the next generation of behavioral scientists to lead.

"As president, my vision will be to see that behavioral medicine plays a key role in the ever-changing health care arena and that our researchers and practitioners are supported in their dedication to provide individuals, organizations and communities with tools to be healthy," she said.

Fitzgibbon is a professor in the Department of Medicine and School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She is division chief of the Division of Health Promotion Research; the associate director of the Population Health, Behavior, and Outcomes Program at the University of Illinois Cancer Center; and deputy director at the Institute for Health Research and Policy.

Fitzgibbon has received continuous National Institutes of Health funding for more than 20 years for research on health risk reduction in underserved populations. She developed a school-based obesity prevention intervention called "Hip-Hop to Health, Jr.," which has been shown to slow excessive weight gain in preschool minority children. Fitzgibbon is co-principal investigator of UIC's National Cancer Institute Cancer Education and Career Development Program (R25 CA057699) that trains pre and postdoctoral fellows in cancer-related health disparities. She also serves as the training director of UIC's Center of Excellence in Eliminating Disparities (P60 MD003424) and the Center for Population Health and Health Disparities (P50 CA106743).

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