



Karen H. Yeary, PhD

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Yeary is an Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She received her Bachelor of Sciences and Doctor of Philosophy in Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University; and completed postdoctoral training in community-based participatory research as a Kellogg Community Health Scholar at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health. Her work has included three broad themes: 1) Creating practical behavioral interventions for underserved groups, 2) Using a community-based participatory approach to address health inequities, and 3) faith and health. Dr. Yeary has received consistent NIH, PCORI, and USDA funding over the past decade and has authored numerous peer-reviewed manuscript and book chapters that advance the field of translational behavioral research in low-resource communities, provide strategies to engage and build the capacity of diverse groups, and elucidate the role of psychosocial factors—particularly spirituality—in health.

Dr. Yeary's currently funded projects include a weight loss and maintenance effectiveness trial for rural African American adults of faith, a comparative-effectiveness trial of a culturally-adapted version of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) (vs. the standard DPP) in U.S. residing Marshallese Islanders, and a hybrid 2 implementation trial of a behavioral activation depression intervention for rural African Americans of faith.

Dr. Yeary has further advanced the fields of community-based participatory research, intervention science, and faith-based health promotion through her service. She is an Associate Editor for *Progress in Community Health Partnerships*, a leading journal in community-based participatory research. She recently completed her term as Program Planner for the Community-Based Public Health Caucus as part of the American Public Health Association. She has been a member of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) since 2003 and currently serves as chair-elect for the Spirituality and Health Special Interest Group.

Personal Statement

I am honored to be on the ballot for Member Delegate. If I am given the privilege to serve in this capacity, I would foster the multi- and interdisciplinary aspect of the Society's vision in three ways:

- 1) Build more working relationships between society members through Special Interest Groups (SIGs). My experience as a community-based participatory researcher makes me uniquely equipped to develop strategies to increase collaboration across SIGs. My current role as Chair-Elect of the Spirituality and Health SIG has also already acquainted me with other colleagues in the Society who lead their respective SIGs.
- 2) Promote research that builds upon the current evidence-base for behavioral health. A key direction of SBM's strategic plan is to develop evidence-based standards for integrative behavioral health care. My expertise in working with diverse partners (e.g. clinics, communities, academics) for the purpose of adapting and implementing evidence-based behavioral strategies would be an asset in promoting this strategic plan. I would aim to bring together various groups together to build the evidence for sustainable strategies to promote behavioral health for all groups, particularly the underserved.
- 3) Develop more formalized mentoring programs. My recent experiences in participating in several mentoring programs would be a valuable asset whereby SBM's current infrastructure (e.g. consultation program) can be built upon to develop more formal mentoring programs, including matching junior scientists or practitioners with more senior professionals.