



Margaret L. Schneider, PhD

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Schneider is a Research Professor in the Department of Planning, Policy and Design within the School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). She is also Associate Director and Director of Evaluation and Pilot Studies within the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science at UCI. Dr. Schneider received her Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology and her Master's in Health Behavior Education from Stanford University, and her Ph.D. in Health Psychology from the University of California, Irvine. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Schneider has conducted independent and team-based research into obesity prevention among adolescents, particularly among youth who are at risk by virtue of economic circumstances and/or physical inactivity. The primarily school-based research that Dr. Schneider has conducted has been NIH-supported for the past two decades, with support from both NICHD and NIDDK. In a series of independent RO1-supported studies, Dr. Schneider has investigated environmental, cognitive, biological and affective factors influencing physical activity behavior among adolescents. Her current work is focusing on determining whether the affective response to exercise is a fixed trait or a malleable characteristic that can be modified through experience. As a co-investigator on the HEALTHY Study, Dr. Schneider led site efforts to leverage physical education, the whole school food environment, social marketing and health education in the largest school-based diabetes-prevention study ever supported by the NIH (42 schools nationwide). For the past 8 years, Dr. Schneider has directed the tracking and evaluation efforts for UCIs Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), and she has recently taken on the additional responsibility of running the Pilot Award program funded through the CTSA. In her role as evaluator, Dr. Schneider has led two multi-site research efforts to examine the impact of the CTSA program. Dr. Schneider has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles.

Dr. Schneider is a permanent member of the NIH Psychosocial Risk and Disease Prevention (PRDP) Study Section and an Associate Editor for the Journal of Behavioral Medicine. She has served as an Associate Editor-in-Chief for the American Journal of Health Promotion and a member of the Editorial Board for the Annals of Behavioral Medicine.

Personal Statement

My service to the Society of Behavioral Medicine dates back over 20 years, when I started as a student volunteer at the Annual Meeting, which I have attended consistently since approximately 1994. Over the years, I have served as co-chair and chair of the Physical Activity Special Interest Group (2004-2008), Track Chair for the Annual Meeting (2009), Program Chair for the Annual Meeting (2013), and co-investigator on the NIH R13 conference grant (2017). In 2016, at the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, I became an SBM Fellow. I have thus had the opportunity to observe the dynamics of SBM from many vantage points, giving me a unique appreciation of the role that SBM plays with respect to the members.

I would be honored to serve the SBM members as a Delegate to the Board. I envision continuing and extending existing member-oriented initiatives as well as starting some new efforts to respond to the changing environment within which behavioral medicine functions today. In terms of new directions, I believe SBM could benefit from reaching out to individuals who are on training grants funded through the NIH, NSF, RWJ and others. In our ongoing efforts to increase the diversity of our membership to include non-psychologists and clinicians, these trainees represent a rich source of research-oriented clinicians with the time and the resources to attend professional conferences. I would welcome the opportunity to work with the Annual Meeting Program Committee to plan programming that would appeal to this audience. Another arena in which I believe SBM could provide valuable service to members is in assisting mid-career individuals with achieving their professional goals. SBM recently started the Leadership Institute, which provides a small group of members with intensive mentoring and training. I would like to see this program leveraged to provide targeted advice and assistance to a wider range of members who may be struggling to grow their career in a challenging environment. Finally, SBM does a phenomenal job of providing the infrastructure for members to connect with colleagues who share similar research interests and perspectives. I would like to expand these networking strengths to encourage inter-sectorial exchange. Many of the real “breakthroughs” in science now come from the merging or blending of very disparate fields. It would be very exciting to see what new ideas might emerge by stimulating collaboration that bridges inherently distinct sciences and/or perspectives.