



**Sara J. Knight, PhD**

### **Biographical Sketch**

Dr. Sara Knight is Professor of Preventive Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Director of Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) at the Birmingham VA. She has served on the faculties at the University of California at San Francisco, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago, and was a scientist at the San Francisco and Chicago VA Medical Centers. From 2012 through 2014, she was Deputy Director of the national VA HSR&D Service.

Dr. Knight received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Throughout her career, she has been a thought leader in seeking to improve patients' health by understanding their preferences for cancer treatment, palliative care, and genomics. Her work has specifically focused on underserved populations. Dr. Knight has been Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on over 29 funded projects supported by the VA, Department of Defense, and National Institutes of Health. She recently received a \$1.1 M award from the VA to conduct a national survey of Veterans' preferences for precision medicine. Mentoring has been a key aspect of her career with 20 pre-doctoral students and 28 fellows and junior faculty members.

Among national leadership positions, Dr. Knight has served on advisory boards for AcademyHealth, American Psychological Association, and the White House Office of Science and Technology. She led the scientific review program for VA HSR&D and has participated in a number of national review panels. She was editorial board member for *Medical Decision Making* and guest editor for the VA issue of *Translational Behavioral Medicine*. She was named an outstanding reviewer for *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *Medical Care*, and *Medical Decision Making*.

An SBM member since 1993 and a fellow since 2012, Dr. Knight has received two Tracy C. Orleans Outstanding Service Awards. She served as Chair of Local Arrangements for the 2006 SBM San Francisco meeting. She founded the Health Decision Making Special Interest Group (Chair, 2008 – 2010) and established a productive collaboration with the Society of Medical Decision Making. As Chair of the Scientific and Professional Liaison Council (SPLC, 2009 – 2013), she expanded SBM's influence through cross-society relationships. Under President Lisa Klesges, she chaired the Governance Review Working Group, producing an action plan to enhance the SBM Board's efficiency and value. Currently, she is on the SPLC and the Finance Committee. If elected, she would be greatly honored to lead our vibrant Society.

## **Personal Statement**

I am thrilled to be nominated as 2018 President of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM). SBM has been central to my professional development. At my first meeting in Chicago, I was awestruck by the scientific rigor and innovations, and heartened to find warmth, inclusiveness, and generosity among new colleagues. Our annual meetings have continued to be a place where I can share scientific and professional interests, appreciate a vigorous debate of critical issues, and reconnect with the fun and excitement of our common mission.

As SBM President, it would be my privilege to lead our vibrant Society as we respond to emerging developments in science, health, and healthcare. My focus will be on advancing SBM's national and global leadership in enriching health through the dissemination of evidence-based behavioral medicine. I would work with the Board of Directors, the SIGs, and interested members to identify non-traditional metrics to better show our value to our stakeholders, whether they are patients, community members, scientists, clinicians, businesses, or government agencies.

There are tremendous opportunities to broaden our influence in approaches to care, such as precision medicine, in integrated healthcare systems, and in population and global health. I will work with the Board and the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to explore the strategies and methods that are needed to expand member expertise in key translational domains--inter-professional collaboration, informatics, systems redesign, ehealth, and implementation science. I envision our SIGs and the editorial boards of our journals collaborating on an initiative to identify optimal communication methods to accelerate public awareness of behavioral medicine's impact, both nationally and internationally.

We can build upon our earlier SBM policy initiatives—leadership development, outreach to legislators and policy makers, dissemination of policy briefs and position statements, and advocacy for funding. As President, I will work with the Board of Directors to build strategic partnerships with health systems and health services advocacy organizations so to amplify the dissemination and implementation of our constructs, measures, and evidence-based interventions. I would seek to create a policy fellowship for SBM members to increase the reach of the next generation of leaders, carrying our SBM mission further into the policy-making arena and connecting more broadly with the public.

Our SBM can innovate and lead, transforming models of care, healthcare systems and population and global health. As President, I look forward to working together with you on new opportunities to make a healthy difference!