Brian Gonzalez, PhD

Candidate for Member Delegate

Personal Statement

I have enjoyed serving SBM, my professional home, since I first volunteered as Student SIG Chair 10 years ago. This opportunity helped me realize I was enthusiastic about giving back to the Society that has been so crucial to my career development.

I hope to serve as Member Delegate to help SBM navigate critical decisions it approaches in the near future. One is whether and how to safely resume in-person activities while remaining accessible and inclusive. Another is how to remain financially strong, given that revenues from traditional sources (i.e., journals, in-person conferences) may be unreliable in the medium- to long-term. SBM has weathered the pandemic relatively well financially, thanks to current and former leaders. But we must soon embark on innovative solutions to diversify our funding sources and strengthen our bottom line. I would draw on my leadership experience at SBM and at my institution to inform SBM's decisions in these areas.

If elected, I will also work to ensure SBM strengthens its emphasis on inclusivity. The pandemic and other recent events have highlighted the urgent need to ensure broad access to the cutting-edge behavioral science and practice SBM Members lead on a daily basis.

Biosketch

Brian Gonzalez is an Associate Member at Moffitt Cancer Center and Associate Professor at the University of South Florida. He will soon conclude 3-year terms on the SBM Board of Directors and as Chair of the SBM SIG Council, where he helps to coordinate the activities of SBM's Special Interest Groups. He recently joined the SBM Health Policy Council, which helps promote health policy initiatives. He was previously the founding Chair of the Sleep SIG and is a former Chair of the Student SIG.

Brian's research focuses on improving quality of life in minority and underserved cancer survivors. He develops interventions to improve quality of life issues, such as sleep disturbance, cognitive impairment, and physical function. These interventions leverage mobile health (mHealth) technology to ensure broad access. A cross-cutting theme of his research is to reduce disparities in cancer survivorship by eliminating barriers and targeting interventions to minority and underserved cancer survivors. For example, he is developing a smartphone app-based intervention to reduce insomnia among African American breast cancer survivors. Brian is also developing symptom monitoring interventions using wearable sensors to predict which cancer patients are about experience debilitating symptoms.

He also leads observational studies using qualitative, patient-reported outcomes, and wearable sensor data to identify cancer patients at greatest risk of deterioration in quality of life issues. He is PI of a study funded by

an NCI R01 and a Department of Defense award to identify disparities in quality of life issues among African American and Hispanic prostate cancer survivors. This project will identify risk and protective factors for quality of life at the levels of the person, interpersonal relationships, and healthcare system. These factors may help inform future patients of elevated risk of quality of life issues, or they may serve as intervention targets for future trials. Another study is funded by the Department of Defense to identify symptoms experienced by prostate cancer patients receiving cutting-edge treatment that is anticipated to soon receive FDA approval. This knowledge may help inform future decision-making about which treatments to pursue and may identify targets for early intervention in these patients.

Brian remains very grateful to SBM for the many networking, collaborative, and learning opportunities it has provided. The Society has helped to propel his career development, and he is passionate about ensuring each Member has a voice in shaping the future of SBM.