Megan Shen, Phd

Candidate for Member Delegate

Personal statement

Through my role as the Health Equity SIG Chair, I have learned how powerful an organization SBM can be when its members rally across singular visions and missions. In this role, I seek to unify our 25 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) as well as our multiple councils and committees to carry out two key missions in line with SBM's vision: (1) to promote diversity and inclusion and (2) increase behavioral medicine's engagement with the public. I believe, and have seen firsthand in this past year through the COVID-19 pandemic and the racial injustice, that behavioral scientists hold answers to many of the public's biggest health issues. We are capable of improving public health and addressing long-standing health inequities in the U.S. through our knowledge, research, and tools. As a member delegate, I will strive to help equip and empower SBM members to carry out their visions for SBM, increase diversity and inclusion efforts across the organization, and broaden our impact through engagement in public discourse. I aim to continue to support SBM members to collaborate and ultimately disseminate their work to the broader public. I would be delighted to serve as a member delegate.

Biosketch

Megan J Shen, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Psychology in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. Her research focuses on developing social psychological and communication-based interventions designed to improve engagement in advance care planning and end-of-life care communication and care outcomes among patients with advanced illness. Much of her work seeks to reduce disparities in end-of-life care communication and care outcomes among minority patients, including Latino advanced cancer patients. She is the recipient of an NCI K07 Career Award, R21, R03, and R37 MERIT award as well as an American Cancer Society Award. She is also a selected Research Scholar of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative

Medicine and was selected as a National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Research Institute participant. Dr. Shen has over 80 peer-reviewed publications in these topics in journals such as Cancer, Psycho-Oncology, and Translational Behavioral Medicine. She is devoted to increasing awareness about end-of-life care issues and health disparities among the broader public. To this end, she has published policy statements as well as serves as a regular contributor to Harvard's Petrie-Flom blog, "Bill of Health" where she has covered issues including addressing equitable end-of-life care for underserved populations, equitable COVID-19 vaccine rollout, and the need for diversity and inclusion in medical education.

Dr. Shen has served in a leadership capacity with SBM for three years as a Chair/Co-Chair of the Health Equity SIG. She has also been a member of SBM for 8 years and has devoted herself to improving collaborations and training across the SIGs and infusing diversity and inclusion throughout the organization. In her role as Chair of the SBM Health Equity SIG, Dr. Shen is co-leading collaborative initiatives in the form of webinars, public facing articles, mentoring initiatives, and SBM conference presentations across the Health Equity SIG, Women's SIG, Population Health SIG, Student SIG, Health Decision Making SIG, Digital Health Council, Civic and Public Engagement Committee (CPEC), and Health Policy Committee. Additionally, Dr. Shen is helping organize and equip Health Equity SIG members to lead several anti-racism trainings and efforts within the SIG to serve the SBM community more broadly. Through these leadership opportunities, she has both the experience and passion for furthering SBM's mission to be a rich and diverse multidisciplinary organization that improves public health through our expertise and knowledge.