

Materials for Scherezade Mama – Member Delegate Candidate

Bio Sketch

Dr. Scherezade (Scher) Mama is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Disparities Research at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. As a health disparities researcher, the overarching mission of her research is to reduce health disparities and promote health equity via community-based physical activity promotion in underserved populations (e.g., racial/ethnic minority adults, rural, medically underserved). Dr. Mama is particularly interested in cancer health disparities and the translation of evidence-based behavioral interventions into sustained practice within community settings.

Dr. Mama joined the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) in 2010 as a graduate student and became involved with SBM as an active member of the Physical Activity and Health Equity SIGs. Since then, she has served as an abstract reviewer (2010-Present), received a citation award (2012), received the Distinguished Student Award for Excellence in Research (2015), and has actively served on the Membership Council (2014-Present), Nominating Committee (2018-2019), and Program Committee (2020-2022). Additionally, Dr. Mama has held several leadership positions within SBM and served as Physical Activity SIG Co-Chair (2016-2018) and Membership Council Chair (2018-2021). During her tenure as Chair of the Membership Council and on the Board of Directors, Dr. Mama was passionate about increasing the diversity of SBM members and led initiatives to enhance diversity and member engagement. Some initiatives that she has been actively involved with and/or led include: 1) revising the membership questionnaire to better understand who SBM members are and where we still have work to do, 2) revamping the Champions program to be more representative of the membership in terms of membership type, race and ethnicity, gender identity, and discipline, 3) expanding the Champions program to focus on membership needs and engagement in addition to growth, and 4) changing the format of the New Member and New Attendee Meet and Greet session at the Annual Meeting to be more inclusive and better meet attendee's needs. Dr. Mama is proud to make SBM her professional home and honored to have served SBM and its members in multiple roles.

Personal Statement

I joined SBM as a graduate student and have grown up with the organization and its members. In 2014, I asked Monica Baskin, Chair of the Membership Council then, "How can I get more involved with SBM?" She invited me to come to a Council meeting the next day at 7:00AM. I showed up, ready to put in work, and it remains one of the best (professional) decisions I've made.

As Member Delegate, I will continue to show up for our members. As former Chair of SBM's Membership Council, I was charged with building and maintaining a multidisciplinary membership of behavioral medicine professionals to help SBM execute its mission. Having worked to recruit individuals and organizations representing diverse backgrounds, I look forward to the opportunity to now serve as Member Delegate and represent the diverse interests and backgrounds of SBM's membership. My prior experiences make me well poised to serve as the voice of SBM's members and guide the development of SBM products and services to meet the membership's needs.

SBM is my professional home. I am well prepared and honored to continue to serve our organization and its members as Member Delegate.