



Monica Baskin inducted as Society of Behavioral Medicine president-elect

Washington, DC – University of Alabama at Birmingham professor, Monica L. Baskin, PhD, began her term as president-elect of the Society of Behavioral Medicine on Saturday.

Baskin is a professor of Preventive Medicine at UAB, and in 2016, was named inaugural Vice Chair for Culture and Diversity for the UAB School of Medicine. Her research focuses on minority health and health disparities, community-based participatory approaches, intersection of health and place, as well as culturally relevant behavioral interventions for cancer and obesity. Baskin is the recipient of numerous research grants, including a nationally recognized NIH-funded research program to reduce health disparities through community-based research.

Following her father's death from cancer, Baskin decided to pursue health disparities as a field of research after completing her PhD in psychology. Her research has shed light on numerous aspects of the effects of social determinants of health – race, class, gender and other factors – in changing health outcomes for disadvantaged communities.

Baskin was inducted as SBM president-elect during the society's 40th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, held Wednesday through Saturday in Washington, DC. She officially began her one-year term during the society's business meeting Saturday morning. She will become society president in April 2020. Baskin was selected as president-elect through a vote by SBM members.

Baskin has been a member of SBM for more than 15 years and has served a variety of functions within the society. She has served as an SBM Member Delegate, recently chaired the Diversity Leadership Working Group, and currently sits on the Membership Council.

The Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) is a 2,400-member organization of scientific researchers, clinicians and educators. They study how behavior, biology and the environment interact, and they turn their findings into health interventions that improve the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

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