



## **Michael Diefenbach inducted as Society of Behavioral Medicine president**

**Washington, DC** – Hofstra/Northwell Health Professor Michael A. Diefenbach, PhD, began his term as president of the Society of Behavioral Medicine on Saturday.

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.

Diefenbach's research explores cancer treatment decision making. He focuses on developing theory-based patient-facing programs, with the ultimate goal of improving patients' decision making, adjustment to disease and quality of life. His interest in decision making culminated in the publication of the edited *Handbook of Health Decision Science*. He has more than 80 publications and has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health, American Cancer Society, and the Department of Defense.

Diefenbach is a professor in the Departments of Medicine, Urology and Psychiatry at Northwell Health and the School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell in New York. He is a founding member of the Center of Health Innovation and Outcomes Research, and co-directs the Cancer Prevention and Control program at the Montefiore Cancer Center.

Diefenbach was inducted as SBM president during the society's 40th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, held Wednesday through Saturday in Washington, DC. He officially began his one-year term during the society's business meeting Saturday morning. Diefenbach was selected as president through a vote by SBM members.

As president, Diefenbach will focus on elevating SBM and members' science to help set the national agenda on healthcare.

"We have shown that we have the evidence and expertise, now we need to put SBM in the center of the national discourse on health," he said. "We will translate and promote our agenda to the media, industry and the public at large, and will advocate for funding. It will enhance behavioral science and SBM's role in the national discourse on health, support the next generation of researchers and provide additional opportunities for revenue generation."

Diefenbach has been a member of SBM for more than 20 years and has served a variety of functions within the society. He was the program co-chair and chair for two annual meetings, served as chair of the Cancer Special Interest Group, and served as secretary/treasurer. During his tenure as treasurer, prudent financial management and investments increased SBM's financial stability by tripling its reserves. Diefenbach is an SBM fellow and recipient of the C. Tracy Orleans Distinguished Service Award.

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