

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE**

**8 a.m. PT**

**April 1, 2017**

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## **Gary Bennett inducted as Society of Behavioral Medicine president**

**SAN DIEGO, CALIF.** – Duke University Bishop-MacDermott Family Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience, Global Health, and Medicine Gary Bennett, Jr., Ph.D., began his term as president of the Society of Behavioral Medicine on Saturday.

The Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) is a 2,300-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.

Bennett was inducted as SBM president during the Society's 38th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, held Wednesday through Saturday in San Diego, Calif. He officially began his one-year term during the Society's business meeting Saturday morning.

Bennett was elected to the presidency through a vote by SBM members after spending the past year as president-elect. Bennett has been a member of SBM for nearly two decades and has served the society in myriad capacities, including program co-chair for the 2010 Annual Meeting and program chair for the 2011 Annual Meeting. He was also elected member delegate, serving from 2011 to 2014. Bennett participated on the editorial board of the *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, and was a guest editor at *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, both SBM-owned scientific publications. Bennett is also a recipient of the C. Tracy Orleans Distinguished Service Award.

One of Bennett's presidential goals will be to grow SBM and enhance its role as the home for, and voice of, the behavioral medicine community.

"I am thrilled to lead SBM. Rarely in our country's history has there been greater need for what our members can provide -- clinically proven solutions that can improve Americans' health," he said. "During my term we will engage with new stakeholders to emphasize the importance of behavior change in preventing disease, improving treatment outcomes, expanding care, and lowering healthcare costs."

Bennett has authored more than 125 scientific papers and his research program has been continuously supported by the National Institutes of Health. The developer of the interactive obesity treatment approach (iOTA), his research has been featured in *The New York Times* and *TIME Magazine* as well as on NPR, CBS, ABC, NBC, Fox News and many other media outlets.

Bennett is a member of the American Psychological Association's obesity treatment guidelines panel and works with committees at Girl Trek, the Institute of Medicine, American Heart Association, and American

Council on Exercise to reduce Americans' high rates of physical inactivity and obesity. He also co-founded two digital health startups. At Duke, Bennett is a member of the university's Bass Society of Fellows and has been repeatedly ranked in the top 5 percent of Duke's undergraduate instructors.

*The Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) is a 2,200-member organization of scientific researchers, clinicians and educators. They study interactions among behavior, biology and the environment, and translate findings into interventions that improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. Visit [www.sbm.org](http://www.sbm.org).*

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