

SOCIETY *of* BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Better Health Through Behavior Change

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Society of Behavioral Medicine Inducts New Officers

NEW ORLEANS, LA - On Saturday, April 14, 2012 the Society of Behavioral Medicine will induct its new officers at the close of the 33rd Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions in New Orleans.

Alan J. Christensen, PhD, commences his term as SBM President next week with objectives of increasing the breadth and depth of member engagement within the Society and increasing the reach and salience of SBM's "voice" with three main focuses: enhancing membership growth and diversity, health information technology and health policy advocacy. He aims to use these goals to better communicate messages involving the importance of "better health through behavior change" to funders, policymakers, and the public as a whole. Dr. Christensen has served on the SBM Board in years past as Editor-in-Chief of *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, Chair of the Publications and Communications Council and Co-Chair of the Program Committee. Dr. Christensen is Professor, Collegiate Fellow, and Chair in the Department of Psychology at Iowa, Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at Iowa, and a Senior Scientist in the Comprehensive Access & Delivery Research and Evaluation (CADRE) Center, at the Iowa City VA.



Dawn K. Wilson, PhD, will assume the role of SBM President-Elect. She aims to continue to strengthen SBM's efforts to influence public policy and national health care issues. Specifically, she hopes to expand SBM's "reach" as an organization and field by engaging and developing young scholars, continuing the Society's efforts for funding behavioral medicine research to broaden SBM's impact on policy makers at a national level and by devoting more efforts to effectively demonstrate the utility and value of evidence-based practices to the broader public. She has also previously served on the SBM Board as Chair of the Program Committee, Chair of the Publications and Communications Council, and Associate Editor of *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. Dawn Wilson is a Professor of Psychology and Director of the Obesity Research Group at the University of South Carolina (USC).



Michael A. Diefenbach, PhD, will join the SBM Board to serve as the Society's Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Diefenbach is excited to expand and "stretch" the Society to accommodate new demands and challenges. Specifically he hopes to help preserve the financial foundation of the Society to be able to fulfill its mission and to increase the fiscal health of the society to meet new challenges. His leadership involvement in SBM includes service as Chair of the Program Committee and Chair of the Cancer Special Interest Group. Dr. Diefenbach is a Health/Social



Psychologist and an Associate Professor of Urology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine (MSSM) in New York and Director of Behavioral Research at the Department of Urology.

Sherry L. Pagoto, PhD, will begin her term on the SBM Board as a Member Delegate. She is committed to the advancement of behavioral medicine research and practice, specifically in the areas of policy, training, primary care integration and technology applications of behavioral interventions (e.g., mobile health and health information technology). She has been actively involved in SBM during her tenure, serving as Chair of the Program Committee, Chair of the Obesity and Diabetes Policy Action Team and as a Field Editor for *Translational Behavioral Medicine* among other roles. Dr. Pagoto is an Associate Professor in the Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.



The Society of Behavioral Medicine is a multidisciplinary organization of clinicians, educators, and scientists dedicated to promoting the study of the interactions of behavior with biology and the environment and the application of that knowledge to improve the health and well being of individuals, families, communities, and populations. www.sbm.org

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