



SOCIETY OF
BEHAVIORAL
MEDICINE

For Immediate Release:

April 27, 2020

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Monica Baskin inducted as Society of Behavioral Medicine president

MILWAUKEE — University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) professor, Monica L. Baskin, PhD, began her term as president of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) on Monday.

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, and 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 National Institutes of Health-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.

As SBM president, Baskin would like to focus on recognizing behavioral medicine as the first treatment choice for population health and well-being.

Baskin stated that her vision for her presidency is, “to help move the needle on the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based prevention and intervention to those populations that are most burdened by poor health. Our membership has the scientific and clinical expertise for greater impact, but would benefit from strategic planning and resources to actualize the potential.”

Baskin was inducted as SBM president during the society's business meeting Monday afternoon. Baskin was selected as president 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 has served 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. www.sbm.org

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