

# SOCIETY *of* BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

*Better Health Through Behavior Change*

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## **James Sallis inducted as Society of Behavioral Medicine president**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – University of California, San Diego distinguished professor James F. Sallis Jr., PhD, began his term as president of the Society of Behavioral Medicine on Saturday.

The Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) is a 2,200-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.

Sallis was inducted as SBM president during the society's 37th 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.

Sallis was elected to the presidency through a vote by SBM members. He is an SBM fellow and spent the past year as president-elect. He previously co-founded SBM's Physical Activity Special Interest Group and served as an elected member delegate on the Board of Directors and as a member of the Education, Training, and Career Development Council. He has been honored with SBM's Distinguished Scientist, Distinguished Mentor and Distinguished Service Awards.

One of Sallis' presidential goals will be to strengthen SBM's impact on health policy.

"There are a surprising number of opportunities to expand SBM's influence," he said. "The Affordable Care Act has provisions to develop team approaches to primary care and provide funding and incentives for community-based prevention. Growing understanding of the intricate interconnections among genes, behavior, and environment creates a need for sophisticated behavioral methods to be integrated with genetics research. SBM has joined with like-minded groups to make sure the health behavior field is well represented in these initiatives, as well as in protecting social and behavioral science funding, and these efforts need to continue."

Sallis is distinguished professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. He is also chief of the Division of Behavioral Medicine.

Sallis has received awards from the American College of Sports Medicine, American Psychological Association (APA) Division of Health Psychology and the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. He represents the APA on the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Obesity Solutions and was on APA's Health Disparities Steering Committee. He has served on committees related to Let's Move

Active Schools, Salud America!, the Guide to Community Preventive Services and the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research.

Sallis is leading two National Institutes of Health-funded international studies on the role of neighborhood environments in shaping physical activity, sedentary behavior, and obesity in adults and adolescents. Another study is developing new measures to advance understanding of how crime and fear may affect physical activity and other health behaviors.

*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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