

## What Does a Member Delegate Do?

So you're interested in serving as an SBM member delegate. You know member delegates "represent the broad-based interests of the membership" – but what does that really mean?

As a member delegate, you would serve a 3-year term on the SBM Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The board meets three times a year and the Executive Committee meets monthly. As a voting member of those bodies, you have input on important decisions like choosing Annual Meeting locations, selecting journal editors, setting health policy priorities, and putting financial resources into new initiatives. In those votes, you are there to represent the diverse interests and backgrounds of SBM's members. You are their voice. You also serve as a voice on SBM's Champions survey panel, answering email survey questions throughout the year to guide development of SBM products and services.

You also work on projects at the request of the SBM board or president, or can propose your own, depending on your interests and bandwidth. For example, recent member delegates have represented SBM on other organizations' taskforces, assisted with conference support grant-writing, served on presidential SBM working groups, and investigated options for recording Annual Meeting keynote presentations.

Read on to find out what past member delegates had to say about the role.

### **What did you appreciate most about your time as a member delegate? Were there particular successes you would highlight or board activities you found particularly rewarding?**

- "I appreciated the involvement with the various activities and discussions of the board."
- "I really appreciated the flexibility in jumping in to help out with whatever efforts were happening at that time, and those proposed by the board. For example, there were the genomic efforts, diversity efforts, etc. This allowed me to meet and work with colleagues from diverse areas. The leadership had a number of areas that they wanted to grow as an organization so that kept me busy."

### **What project(s) did you focus on during your member delegate term?**

- "Major activities included: serving as co-editor on development of a special issue of *Translational Behavioral Medicine*; serving on the International Society of Behavioral Medicine Taskforce, which has involved delineation of ISBM priorities and development of relevant publications; serving on SBM's Development Committee; and serving on the committee to recruit a new *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* editor."
- "I helped develop policy-oriented working groups and what became SBM's official Civic and Public Engagement Committee."

### **Did you feel that your contributions were welcome and recognized?**

- "Yes, I felt they were. Working closely with the president was important because it made my role and contributions very clear."