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**CONTACTS**

**Amy Stone, (414) 918-3156**

[astone@sbm.org](mailto:astone@sbm.org)

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

**SAN ANTONIO** – University of California, San Diego distinguished professor James Sallis, PhD, began his term as president-elect 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 interactions among behavior, biology and the environment, and translate findings into interventions that improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Sallis was inducted as SBM president-elect during the society's 36th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, held Wednesday through Saturday in San Antonio. He officially began his one-year term during the society's business meeting on Saturday morning. He will become society president in April 2016.

Sallis was elected as president-elect through a vote by SBM members. He is an SBM fellow, has served as member delegate, was founding co-chair of the Physical Activity Special Interest Group and served on the Education, Training, and Career Development Council. He has been honored with the Distinguished Scientist, Distinguished Mentor and Distinguished Service Awards from SBM.

As president, Sallis will focus on strengthening the impact of SBM members' research on policy and practice. He would like to make sure behavioral health is well represented in genetics research, primary care, and community-based prevention. He would like to continue SBM's efforts to protect social and behavioral science funding. He would also like to bring key decision makers to SBM's annual meetings and hold annual meeting sessions on research translation.

Sallis would also focus on early career members.

"Keeping SBM vibrant requires ongoing recruitment and support of early career investigators that represent the diversity of disciplines, interests, and personal backgrounds that make SBM so strong," he said.

Sallis is distinguished professor of Family Medicine and Public Health at the University of California, San Diego; chief of the Division of Behavioral Medicine; and director of Active Living Research, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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.

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