

SBM Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions

Topic Area Descriptions

Cancer

Abstracts that address cancer at any point along the cancer continuum (prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, palliative care, end-of-life) are appropriate for this topic area. Submissions that include understudied populations or cancer types are encouraged. Interventions or programs that focus on implementation, dissemination, policy, translation into communities or use of innovative methods (e.g., smart or adaptive designs) are of particular interest.

Cardiovascular disease

Abstracts that address cardiovascular disease as an outcome or risk factors for cardiovascular disease in the context of cardiovascular disease prevention or management are appropriate for this topic area. Abstracts that address cardiovascular disorders as they arise in a community or clinical setting and behavioral treatments for cardiovascular disease are appropriate for this track. Interventions and policies to address primary or secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease or management of post diagnosis health issues are of particular interest.

Complementary and Integrative Medicine/Spirituality

Abstracts that address mechanisms of health, illness, and interventions that are typically outside conventional Western medical/psychological approaches are appropriate for this track. Interventions might include, but are not limited to, acupuncture, meditation, art therapy, Qi Gong, botanicals, special diets, or therapeutic touch. Abstracts that describe spiritually- or religiously-oriented processes, mechanisms, or interventions related to health, health behaviors, and illness are also appropriate for this track.

Decision Making

Abstracts that address the theory, science, and practice of decision making, particularly as applied in behavioral medicine, are appropriate for this track. Relevant topics for abstracts submitted to this track span widely across behavioral and medical domains and can include, but are not limited to, descriptive studies of decision making by patients, the general population, or health professionals; intervention studies that seek to promote better decision making, including specific decision processes or outcomes, in patients, the general population, or health professionals; and patient-centered and shared decision making between patients and health professionals.

Diabetes

Abstracts that address issues related to diabetes prevention and management, including but not limited to lifestyle modification, self-care behaviors, and diabetes related health outcomes, are appropriate for this track. Abstracts addressing diabetes related health disparities related to race/ethnicity and/or socioeconomic status are encouraged, as are those that address diabetes and social determinants of health.

Digital Health

Abstracts that address the use of digital health technologies for impacting health and health care outcomes are appropriate for this topic area. Studies addressing the design, implementation, and evaluation of behavior change interventions delivered through advanced technologies are encouraged.

Dissemination and Implementation

Abstracts that address factors and strategies to promote the dissemination and implementation of research findings and evidence into broader policy and practice are appropriate for this track. Abstracts may address successful methods for encouraging adoption of evidence-based programs or policies among stakeholders in healthcare, community, or policy settings; how to best disseminate and package information about psychosocial and behavioral interventions to enhance reach and adoption in non-academic public health and clinical settings; effective strategies to promote the integration of evidence-based programs and policies into practice settings; and barriers and facilitators that influence successful implementation and sustainability of effective interventions.

Health Communication

Abstracts on the use of communication strategies to inform and influence individual decisions that enhance health are appropriate for this topic area. Topics may include patient-provider communication, health promotion, social marketing, campaign evaluation, risk communication, communication about emerging hazards, and health information seeking. Research testing theories of health communication are of particular interest.

[Highlighted text is from NCI and CDC defs of health comm]

Health Policy and Advocacy

Abstracts that address health policy and advocacy issues are appropriate for this topic area. Health policy is generally defined as a policy action taken to advance public health. Advocacy refers to actions taken by individuals or groups to advance health policies or improve health care. Research evaluating the health outcomes of policy changes and research focused on integrating the literature to make evidence-based policy recommendations are of particular interest.

HIV/AIDS

Abstracts reporting findings of novel studies focused on the primary/secondary/tertiary prevention, consequences, and social impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals, families, and communities are appropriate for this topic area. In addition, novel studies focused on the consequences of HIV infection (e.g., health-related quality of life, coping); interventions to improve health outcomes (e.g., treatment and treatment adherence); mental health aspects of HIV/AIDS; and informing HIV/AIDS related policy are welcomed.

Integrated Primary Care

Abstracts that promote and enhance the delivery of evidence-based behavioral health care in primary care settings. Topics may involve focus on integration of behavioral health professionals and biopsychosocial interventions into primary care settings; examination of behavioral health interventions in primary care; training students in integrated primary care; and policies that impact behavioral health care in primary care settings.

Medication Adherence

Abstracts reporting on: factors that support and/or undermine medication adherence; explorations of adherence decision-making; examination of behavioral economic theories or strategies; the development or evaluation of novel adherence interventions (e.g., self-management, health literacy/numeracy, mhealth); or research that informs policy that affects adherence.

Mental Health

Abstracts that examine prevention and/or intervention efforts targeting health risk behaviors among individuals with mental health problems are appropriate for this topic area. In addition, abstracts that examine the role of mental health problems in predicting adherence to behavioral interventions and/or influencing outcomes of such interventions would be of interest.

Military and Veterans' Health

Abstracts submitted to this track should describe data-driven research that targets Military or Veteran populations and healthcare systems. Research that examines health behaviors and/or mental health issues that arise in clinical or medical settings is most relevant. Submissions that address implementation of evidence-based practices are particularly encouraged. Abstract conclusions should refer to the translation of research to practice by including clinical or policy recommendations.

Multiple Behavior Change

Abstracts that provide data from research that targets behavior change as the outcome are appropriate for this topic area. Submissions may include, but are not limited to, intervention studies of behavior change, studies examining mediators and/or moderators of behavior change, individual-level approaches, or research examining population-level data as it pertains to understanding behavior change. Abstracts focused on behavior change to address health equity, specific at-risk populations, and/or healthy people groups are appropriate for this track.

Obesity

Abstracts that address obesity as a predictor, risk factor, or outcome are relevant to this topic area. Obesity may be assessed through a variety of measures such as height/weight, waist circumference, or body composition. Epidemiological, behavioral, intervention, clinical, and policy research studies related to obesity are encouraged.

Pain

Abstracts that address pain, and biopsychosocial factors that are associated with pain experience and its outcomes, are appropriate for this topic area. Examples include pain assessment and measurement, management, epidemiology, policy, quality improvement, education, telehealth, information technology, care models, patient-reported outcomes, tobacco and other substance use, and disparities linked to sex, race, and age. A focus on psychological and behavioral interventions for pain, including the processes of change during these interventions, and their integration into healthcare settings, are of particular interest. The influence of pain on emotional distress, coping, and health outcomes is relevant. A focus on pain in veterans, women, and palliative care populations with cancer or other serious medical illnesses is encouraged.

Physical Activity

Abstracts that address physical activity, as a behavior and/or an outcome, are appropriate for this topic area. Physical activity that differs by type, such as leisure time, occupational, household, and transportation, are encouraged. Interventions using physical activity as a method to change behavior are of particular interest.

Quality of Life

Health related quality of life encompasses multi-dimensional aspects of overall quality of life that affect health and functioning of individuals, groups or communities. Abstracts describing research on quality of life are appropriate for this track. Submissions may include measurement and descriptions of quality of life in individuals or groups, interventions to improve quality of life, and predictors of quality of life (e.g., demographic, psychosocial, contextual, cultural, environmental)—applied across the life span and/or continuum of disease, treatment, or prevention.

Race, Ethnicity and Culture

Individual- or population-level abstracts that emphasize and address health issues within medically understudied and underserved minority groups, including (but not limited to) racial, ethnic, cultural, sexual, gender, and low-income populations are appropriate for this track. Investigations of proposed biological, psychosocial, and contextual determinants of health and illness, as well as studies describing novel methodological and theoretical approaches to prevention and intervention, are of particular interest to this track.

Sleep

Abstracts that address sleep, as a behavior/exposure and/or an outcome, are appropriate for this topic area. Studies that seek to modify sleep duration, sleep quality, insomnia symptoms, and sleep apnea symptoms are encouraged. Interventions using behavioral treatments for sleep disorders and poor sleep are of particular interest.

Social and environmental context and health

Abstracts that address the relationship between health and the social/physical environment or contextual factors are appropriate for this track. Abstracts may address the settings and contexts in which psychosocial, policy, or behavioral interventions are delivered (e.g. workplace, community, school, family, health system); the dynamic and synergistic ways in which sociocultural, individual, interpersonal, organizational, systems, and environmental factors affect health and disease; political, social, economic, and environmental determinants of health; and social contextual factors relevant to the development, prevention, treatment and management of a range of health behaviors and diseases.

Stress

Abstracts that describe research on stress, stress processes, the stress response, mechanisms, or interventions related to health, health behaviors, and illness are appropriate for this track. Examples include, but are not limited to research focusing on factors related to stress, mediators and moderators of stress, and behavioral interventions to decrease stress and/or improve the stress response.

Substance Abuse

Abstracts that address substance abuse, as a risk factor, behavior and/or an outcome, are appropriate for this topic area. Substance Abuse topics include but are not limited to alcohol, illicit drugs, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, are encouraged. Epidemiological, co-occurring behaviors, prevention, treatment and dissemination abstracts are of particular interest.

Tobacco Control

Abstracts that address tobacco control are appropriate for this topic area. Studies may examine or intervene on use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, hookah, little cigars and other tobacco products. Abstracts relevant to tobacco regulatory science are of particular interest.