



Bernard Fuemmeler, PhD, MPH

Biographical Sketch

Bernard Fuemmeler, PhD, MPH, is Professor and Gordon D. Ginder, MD Endowed Chair in Cancer Research at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Dr. Fuemmeler completed his graduate work in clinical psychology at Oklahoma State University and internship at the Medical University of South Carolina. He then subsequently completed a master's degree in public health at Harvard University. He received postdoctoral research training through the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) cancer prevention and control (CPC) fellowship program where he worked in the Health Behavior Research Branch. Dr. Fuemmeler began his academic career at Duke University rising from assistant to associate professor with tenure. At Duke he led a number of population-based studies, mentored and trained post-doctoral and junior faculty, and founded and directed mHealth@Duke – a school-wide co-laboratory whose mission was to expand research, education, and leadership in mobile and digital health. In 2016 he was recruited to VCU's Massey Cancer Center to serve as associate director of CPC. In this role, he is responsible for coordinating the CPC research program within the center and works with the other senior leaders to set and assess the strategic plans, policies, and priorities for the center. In addition, he directs the T32 pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training program in CPC. His research takes a life-course approach toward understanding the biological and social factors contributing the onset of cancer-related health behaviors such as childhood obesity and adolescent tobacco use. Applying digital health approaches, his research also aims to develop novel behavioral interventions to affect changes in lifestyle behaviors. Newer research is examining the use of social media to improve cancer prevention communication.

Dr. Fuemmeler has been a member of SBM for 16 years. From 2013-2016 he was chair of the Child and Family Health SIG. While in this role he expanded the SIG membership, worked to create bridges with other organizations, and helped lead a SIG-initiated manuscript highlighting future direction for child and family health research within the field of behavioral medicine. At present, he serves as an associate editor for the flagship journal of SBM, *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. His work has been continuously supported by a number of foundations and institutes of the NIH. He is a standing member for the NIH Psychosocial Risk and Disease Prevention study section. He is

committed to advancing the mission of SBM and welcomes the opportunity to further serve SBM as Member Delegate.

Personal Statement

Throughout the years, I have enjoyed participating in the meetings and serving the society when called upon. Although I have been a member of the Cancer and Obesity SIG, I have been most active in the child and family health SIG and served as the chair of this SIG from 2013-2016. I also serve the organization and field in my role as associated editor for the society's flagship journal, Annals of Behavioral Medicine. SBM has been my professional home for a number of years and I have received a great deal of mentoring and advice from my colleagues within the society. I would be honored continue my service to SBM in the role of Member Delegate.

As Member Delegate, I will support and help advance initiatives that expand our tent to include researchers from other disciplines. Like previous leaders in our organization, I share an enthusiasm for the cross-talk that has occurred among the multiple disciplines that has helped shape the field of digital health. This type of cross-talk has been critical to forging new paths within in our field and in our society. New themes in medicine and public health are emerging, such as the "omics" (genomics, metabolomics, etc.), precision medicine, big data and dissemination and implementation science. Expanding our tent to include dialogue with investigators pursuing research in these and other emerging themes will ultimately benefit our science and our organization. As Member Delegate, I will look for opportunities to help foster and bringing into the fold members from other disciplines that will help grow our prominence as a society.

As Member Delegate, I will also aim to support and encourage new and existing initiatives advanced by our members and SIGs that help elevate SBM and our field. A recent example of this was the series of outstanding papers published in 2017 in the special issue of the Journal of Behavior Medicine titled "motivating future directions of behavioral medicine." When I was chair of the child and family health SIG, I helped lead the paper for our SIG. I felt this was a great way of bring people together under a common goal. As Member Delegate, I will look toward our SIGs to help advance similar initiatives focused on elevating our prominence in research, mentorship of junior colleagues, and advancing our standing as leaders in the field of medicine and public health.