



**A. Rani Elwy, PhD**

**Candidate for Member Delegate**

**Personal Statement**

When the call for volunteers came two years ago to serve as the Abstract Topic Chair for the SBM Integrative Health and Spirituality SIG, I jumped at the chance. I wanted to bring to SBM what I've learned from my involvement in other organizations, such as AcademyHealth (Education Council, SIG Advisory Committee), Society for Implementation Research Collaboration (Mentor), and the American Board of Pediatrics (Research Advisory Committee). When I commit to an organization or role, I do so with dedication, attention to detail, energy and enthusiasm. I am now ready to bring these same qualities to SBM as a Member Delegate. As an implementation scientist, I specialize in stakeholder engagement; I will use these skills to seek out SBM member perspectives, ideas and concerns, to bring back to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, to inform planning and policy. As Acting Associate Director of CHOIR, I have been involved in diversity, equity and inclusion planning, informing our Center's strategy for hiring, promotion, and improving workplace culture. I received specialized training in how to have difficult conversations, and I have used this skill in all leadership positions. I am well-prepared to help SBM move its 2021-2025 Strategic Framework forward.

**Biosketch**

A. Rani Elwy, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Associate Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the Brown School of Public Health, and Acting Associate Director and Core Investigator of the Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research (CHOIR) at VA Bedford Healthcare System. Her training is in health psychology, health services research and implementation science. Dr. Elwy is the founding director of the Implementation Science Core at Brown, and an implementation scientist on the Biobehavioral Sciences Core of the Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research. She is also a research mentor on the Brown Clinical Psychology Residency Behavioral Medicine track.

Dr. Elwy has been a Society of Behavioral Medicine member since 2003. She is an active member of the Integrative Health and Spirituality (ISH) Special Interest Group, and serves as its Abstract Topic Chair for the SBM annual meeting and scientific sessions. Dr. Elwy is also involved in the Military and Veteran Health Special Interest Group, as a dedicated 18-year VA employee in the Health Services Research and Development Service. She is also a long-term peer reviewer for both *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* and *Translational Behavioral Medicine*. Dr. Elwy was also invited to be on the Scientific Program Committee of the International Congress of Behavioral Medicine.

Dr. Elwy is currently MPI of a 5-year, 18-site VA QUERI (implementation science) program consisting of three RCTs supported by 4 Cores, to improve Veterans' health outcomes associated with mental health and substance use disorders by expanding access to and engagement in overdose prevention, treatment, and supportive services for Veterans most impacted by social determinants of health. Dr. Elwy is leading a team of investigators to examine COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Veteran patients and employees, to provide data to the VA's National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, to increase the uptake of vaccines throughout the country. Dr. Elwy also serves as site PI of PCORI- and NIH - funded projects focused on behavioral and implementation science. Dr. Elwy's research focuses on understanding patients' perspectives of mental health treatment to increase help-seeking behavior; the effectiveness and implementation of complementary and integrative health approaches to care; and patient, provider and health system risk communication. She is an active mentor to 25 students, fellows and early career faculty members wishing to gain research experience at the intersection of behavioral medicine and implementation science.