

Bernard F. Fuemmeler, PhD, MPH

Personal Statement

SBM has been my professional home for 20 years. What I like most about the organization is the wonderful colleagues I have met over the years, and the dedication of its members to advancing behavioral science. I have found no other organization that is more supportive than SBM. One of the magnificent things I like about SBM is its welcoming culture: welcoming of different disciplines, its embrace of a diversity of ideas, and its recognition that different cultural perspectives contribute to the growth of our field. SBM has made great strides in areas of policy advocacy, science communication, and career and professional development; and, we will continue this work. At the same time, SBM has a tremendous opportunity and, perhaps obligation, to be leaders in the broader scientific dialogue about some of the more pressing issues of the day, including vaccination uptake, structural racism and health, digital medicine, precision population health and implementation science. We must continue to be forward thinking and forward leaning. I believe we can do this and emerge as strong advocates for behavioral science as critical to advancing many of these issues that are so important to health. Join me. Let's make it real.

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Bernard F. Fuemmeler is a Professor and Gordon D. Ginder, MD Chair in Cancer Research in the Department of Health Behavior and Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is Associate Director of Population Science at VCU's Massey Cancer Center and Program co-leader (interim) for the Center's cancer prevention and control program. He also directs the NCI funded T32 institutional training program in cancer prevention and control.

Dr. Fuemmeler's research focuses on understanding the biological, behavioral, social and environmental factors that contribute to lifestyle factors linked to cancer (e.g., tobacco, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and obesity). His work often applies a life-course framework and incorporates multi-level methods to study these factors. In addition, he is interested in how the field can harness novel statistical methods and leverage digital technologies (e.g., social media, big data, mobile phones and wireless sensors) to address behavioral and social science problems.

Dr. Fuemmeler's research work has been continuously supported by NIH, NCI, and private foundation grants since 2006. Before being recruited to VCU Massey Cancer Center, he served as a faculty member at Duke University rising from Assistant to Associate Professor with Tenure. He completed his graduate work in clinical psychology at Oklahoma State University and a clinical internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina. He then subsequently completed a master's degree in public health at Harvard University. He received further postdoctoral research training through the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Cancer Prevention Fellowship program where he worked in the Health Behavior Research Branch.

He has served the field in numerous ways, including serving on NIH and NCI study sections and within the organization of SBM. He has been a member of SBM for nearly 20 years and was inducted as a Fellow in 2019. He has been active in the Cancer and Obesity Special Interest Groups over the years. From 2013 to 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. He has also served as associate editor for the flagship journal of SBM, *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* from 2018 to 2019.