

## **Personal Statement**

I'm honored to be considered for the Member Delegate position for the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM). Having served on the Board of Directors for the past 7 years, I have developed a deep understanding of SBM—the mission and values, the leadership structure and what makes it so impactful. I want to further support members in engaging in the aspects of SBM that have been life-changing for me including continuing to train and support members in health policy advocacy and science communication with a focus on promoting health equity. The impact of our behavioral interventions becomes limited when the study ends and participants are faced with the same systemic and environmental barriers: lack of health care coverage, inability to afford medications, limited safe spaces to exercise and food deserts. Given these barriers, it is critical that we continue to train our members in health policy advocacy and science communication so that we are no longer the scientific community's "best kept secret." In my role as Member Delegate, I will work with the Health Policy leadership, organizational coalitions and members to continue to support health policy and broader science communication efforts to further the primary goals of our strategic plan.

## **Biosketch**

Dr. Joanna Buscemi is an Assistant Professor at DePaul University in the Department of Psychology. Her work is focused broadly on addressing health inequities among marginalized populations. She has primary expertise in obesity prevention/treatment but has also worked across disease presentations, including diabetes and cancer, and across a broad range of health risk behaviors such as poor diet, physical inactivity, alcohol use, smoking, and vaccine hesitancy. She currently has published 70 peer-reviewed manuscripts in leading journals in behavioral medicine (h-index = 25). Dr. Buscemi has been an active SBM member for the 11 years. She first became involved in leadership as the Evidence-Based Behavioral Medicine Special Interest Group Co-Chair from 2014-2017 and has served on the Board of Directors for the past 7 years. In 2014 she published her first policy position statement which would become the first of many. Because of her commitment to science to policy translation, she was appointed Chair of the Health Policy Committee in 2015. In her role as the Health Policy Committee Chair, she oversaw the development and dissemination of SBM's health policy position statements. To date, she has authored 30 of these position statements and has mentored members on countless others. She has also conducted trainings at SBM and nationally and is widely recognized as a leader in this space. When Dr. Buscemi concluded her term as Health Policy Committee Chair, she was appointed Chair of the Health Policy Council, which oversees the entire policy agenda of SBM. For the last 3 years, she has been implementing a health policy strategic plan from scratch which has involved developing a Health Policy Ambassador Program—a program focused on aligning our policy advocacy around 3 priority areas, finding legislators who champion these issues, matching member expertise to those legislators, training members to develop relationships with legislative aides, and tracking process. She is currently overseeing 30 ambassadors across the country who are engaging their legislative staff at least monthly. This program has resulted in outcomes including conversations with policymakers leading to the actual development of bills and opportunities for our members to testify in front of Congress. In addition to these primary service roles, Dr. Buscemi has also served on the SBM Nominating Committee (2019-2020) and is the current Co-Chair of the Health Communication and Health Policy Advocacy Track as well as the Honorary Co-Chair for the Science Communication Fund of SBM's Proven Science-Better Health Campaign.