SIG Council Conference Call
MINUTES
Wednesday, June 16, 2020
9 a.m. HT/12 p.m. PT/1 p.m. MT/2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET
Call in number: https://bluejeans.com/358238410

In Attendance
Brian Gonzalez, PhD – Chair
Jaime Hughes, PhD, MPH, MSW – Aging
Elizabeth Orsega-Smith, PhD – Aging
Danielle Jake-Schoffman, PhD – BIT
Courtney Monroe, PhD – BIT
Amy Leader, DrPH, MPH – Cancer
Andrew Busch, PhD – CVD
Allyson Hughes, PhD – Diabetes
Nora Henrikson, PhD, MPH – EBBM
Shannon Christy, PhD – HDM
Kassandra Alcaraz, PhD, MPH – Health Equity
Kimberly Nelson, PhD, MPH – HIV & Sexual Health
Cerissa Blaney, PhD – IPC
Jennifer Funderburk, PhD – IPC
Tammy Stump, PhD – MHBCM
Angela Pfammatter, PhD – OBBI
Andrea Graham, PhD – OED
Rebecca Krukowski, PhD – OED
Kathryn Ross, PhD – OED
Linda Trinh, PhD – Physical Activity
Cayence Kroenke, ScD, MPH – PHS
Jessica Dietch, PhD – Sleep
Carina Mnich – Student/TTBCI
Terence Penn – Student
Derek Hevel – TTBCI
Em Adams, PhD – Violence and Trauma
Alicia Dahl, PhD – Women’s Health
Veronica Njie-Carr, PhD – Women’s Health
Andrew Schmidt (staff)

Minutes
The April SIG Council call minutes were approved as written.

SIG Renewal Application Debrief
Dr. Gonzalez asked the council for recommendations on improving the renewal application and the renewal process for future years.

Several members remarked upon the similarities between the SIG annual reports and the renewal application. To reduce duplication of efforts, the renewal application could feature new questions or utilize interactive or pre-populated forms. Alternatively, chairs could be asked to draft a statement or statements for context while submitting their previous three years’ annual reports for review.

Dr. Christy recommended formally or informally involving past chairs in the renewal process to help provide context for their terms beyond simply reading prior years’ annual reports. Additionally, the timeline for preparing and reviewing renewal applications could be shifted such that new chairs/co-chairs wouldn’t be expected to complete them shortly after the past chairs’ departure.

Virtual Business Meetings Debrief
Council members were encouraged to share lessons learned from holding their business meetings virtually in April and May, as well as suggestions for SBM to better facilitate future virtual meetings if they become necessary.

A number of SIGs announced their awards and gave each winner some time to present about their projects, which seemed to be well-received. In addition, the breakout group function in BlueJeans was found to work well generally, with chairs mentioning that they hoped any potential future meeting platform would include a similar feature. Outside of the context of SIG business meetings specifically, opportunities for small group meetings and informal mentoring are a key aspect of the Annual Meeting that members missed this year, and several council members recommended that SBM find
a way to replicate those kinds of opportunities if the meeting is held virtually next year.

Dr. Pfammatter noted that a significant portion of in-person business meeting attendance comes from members who are looking to join a new SIG or to become more involved in one of their SIGs, and that those members wouldn’t necessarily be subscribed to SIG listservs to learn about the business meetings in advance. If SIGs are holding virtual business meetings in future years, it would be helpful to have a centralized schedule that all members can access or some other method for SIGs to promote their meetings to the wider SBM membership.

Several chairs echoed these points and shared that overall attendance at their virtual meetings was lower than a typical in-person business meeting. If a virtual format is used in the future, having a longer timeline or higher-profile forum for promoting sessions could be helpful.

Open Forum
Dr. Gonzalez shared a comment from Dr. Matt Whited regarding Healthy Living articles and methods for making past articles easier to search as well as providing notifications when new articles are published. SBM staff is already working to implement subscription and notification functionality for the section, with updates expected in the summer.

Dr. Krukowski enquired about the status of the Healthy Living section generally, and whether authors could be provided information about their articles’ performance. Dr. Gonzalez offered to pass on any analytics presented to the board, and to add a discussion of public-facing articles to the agenda for an upcoming SIG Council call.

Ms. Mnich posted a comment notifying the council that another season of the Student SIG/ETCD Council Career Development Webinar Series is being planned for late-2020/early-2021. A formal invitation to participate with suggested webinar topics is forthcoming, but interested chairs are welcome to reach out to Ms. Mnich at any time.

Next meeting: August 18, 2020; 11 a.m. ET