

Dennis Thombs, Ph.D.
9th AAHB President (2009-2010)

When did you attend your first Academy annual meeting? 1999

What attracted you to AAHB? Focus on multi-disciplinary research – not bound by the disciplinary silos of academia.

What do you value about the Academy and why did you choose to be involved as President? I value our focus on mentoring early career investigators. I served as President to advance the mission of the organization and to establish a professional home for health behavior researchers.

What was your vision for AAHB when you assumed the role of President? My vision was to preserve the unique aspects of AAHB, i.e., focus on excellence rather than growth.

What was your biggest accomplishment as President? Two accomplishments – I steered AAHB away from the field of academic health education (which has withered away) and I hired Joanne Sommers (one of our greatest assets).

Where do you see AAHB in the next 10 years? I hope that AAHB continues to support and foster the development of early career investigators.

Do you have any advice for students and early career researchers? Persevere, do not be discouraged, and ask for help.