

Dong-Chul Seo, Ph.D.
14th AAHB President (2014-2015)

When did you attend your first Academy annual meeting? 2003

What attracted you to AAHB? I was introduced to AAHB by a former AAHB president, Prof. Torabi who was my mentor. It did not take long before I realized how wonderful the AAHB meeting was. Almost all the presentations were top-quality and stimulated my thinking. I also loved the opportunity to interact with other seasoned researchers in our field.

What do you value about the Academy and why did you choose to be involved as President? I value meritocracy and the tradition and culture of AAHB that cultivates next generations of health behavior researchers. I fell in love with the Academy immediately after I attended the annual meeting for the first time in 2003. Of course, I started to engage myself more with the Academy especially since 2008, taking the role of Research Review Committee Chair, Delegate, and Treasurer before being elected as President. The Academy values excellence in research and I wanted to be part of the stewardship to make this organization grow and prosper as the professional home of many health behavior researchers.

What was your vision for AAHB when you assumed the role of President? During my Presidency, I wanted to make sure that the Academy was continuously committed to meritocracy and scientific rigor, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, and becoming an influential organization.

What was your biggest accomplishment as President? I happened to be the President when the Diversity and Equity Council was created as a standing council on the Board. I was also lucky to be able to introduce several bright young researchers to the Academy including Dr. Kaigang Li (the 2014 Judy K Black Early Career Research Awardee) and Dr. Hsien-Chang Lin (the 2015-16 Research Review Committee Chair). I take pride in my nomination of Dr. Katie Heinrich as a board member who has done a marvelous job as the Marketing and Communications Council Chair and Dr. Hsien-Chang Lin as the Research Review Committee Chair for 2015-16 who is also doing a wonderful job.

Where do you see AAHB in the next 10 years? A prestigious professional organization for health behavior researchers in the world with active membership of 300+.

Do you have any advice for students and early career researchers? Join AAHB if you have not. If you have, actively engage yourself with the AAHB. There are many opportunities at the Academy that may lead you to leadership roles. Take advantage of the AAHB mentoring program in which you can connect with outstanding researchers.