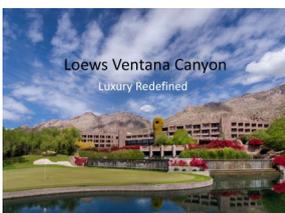


Top stories in this newsletter



Annual Scientific Meeting Update



Professional Updates



Research Updates

AAHB 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting Update

“Health Behavior Research in the Age of Personalized Medicine”—March 19-22, 2017—Loews Ventana Canyon, Tuscon, Arizona

We are quite excited for you to come and learn more about the national precision medicine initiative; how genomics and genetic information can be used to motivate behavior change and address disease prevention; the [NIMH BRAIN initiative](#); and how to manage and analyze secondary data with Stata. And that’s all just in the first full day of the conference!

Besides excellent research presentations, you will have numerous opportunities for networking throughout the meeting. Physical activity opportunities are available for free on Monday and Tuesday mornings and the area offers many other activities (e.g., golf, hiking, mountain biking, etc.) along with local shopping. Regular [conference registration](#) is open through **February 16**.

We look forward to seeing you in Tucson in March!

AAHB Conference Planning Committee

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Professional Updates

Dr. Kelli E. Will Promoted to Professor

AAHB Member [Kelli E. Will, PhD](#) was promoted to Professor by Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Dr. Lawrence W. Green Presented with the American Public Health Association’s Highest Award

Lawrence Green, MPH, DrPH, FAAHB received the [Sedgwick Memorial Medal for Distinguished Service in Public Health](#). Given annually since 1929, it is the oldest and most prestigious award bestowed by the American Public Health Association in honor of former president William Thompson Sedgwick. Dr. Green, Professor Emeritus of epidemiology and biostatistics at UC San Francisco, received the award for his distinguished career in bridging theory and research in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health programs and policies.



Dr. Shervin Assari Elected SAPHIR President and SBM Fellow

AAHB member Shervin Assari, MD, MPH, started his term as the new [President of SAPHIR](#) (the Scientific Association for Public Health in Iran) in January 2017. SAPHIR is a professional organization with a mission to “create a global network to generate and disseminate public health knowledge regarding Iran.” Dr. Assari was also recently elected as a Fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine.

Dr. Chandra L. Ford Serves on APHA Anti-Racism Collaborative Advisory Board and the National Academies of Medicine Committee on Community Based Solutions to Promote Health Equity

Chandra L. Ford, PhD, MPH was invited to serve as a Member of the Anti-Racism Collaborative (ARC) Advisory Board to the President of the American Public Health Association and as Co-Chair of the ARC’s Council on Science, October 2016-present. Dr. Ford also is serving on the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine) [Committee on Community Based Solutions to Promote Health Equity in the United States](#), of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Dec. 2015-Jan. 31, 2017.

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Research Updates

Make Safe Happen App Named One of the 10 Best Cause Marketing Promotions of 2016

Make Safe Happen is a free, go-to resource for parents and caregivers. The Make Safe Happen app was created by Lara McKenzie, PhD and her team in the Center for Injury Research and Policy at the Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Dr. McKenzie’s team recently concluded a randomized trial to evaluate the effectiveness of the app.



PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Sussman publishes Book on Substance and Behavioral Addictions

Steven Y. Sussman, PhD, FAAHB’s newly published text, [Substance and Behavioral Addictions: Concepts, Causes, and Cures](#) (Cambridge), pertains primarily to 11 focal substance or behavioral addictions: tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, food, gambling, electronic media, love, sex, shopping, exercise, and work. He discusses an appetitive effects model of addiction, prevalence of these addictions, relations among the addictions (types of concurrent and substitute patterns), methods of assessment, prevention, treatment, and future directions. He includes a major conceptual emphasis on misapplied appetitive processes. If we understand that addiction has a wide reach (and may impact approximately 50% of the adult population in a year), we may start to understand it as a problem of lifestyle which interfaces with our neurobiological systems associated with obtaining appetitive effects.

Dr. Lara McKenzie Publishes Three Papers on Injury Prevention Topics

In December 2016 Lara McKenzie, PhD, FAAHB and colleagues published results of a randomized, controlled trial (Project CODE) in *Injury Prevention*, “Pediatric emergency department-based monoxide detector intervention: a randomised trial” ([DOI: 10.1136/injuryprev-2016-042039](#)). Dr. McKenzie and colleagues also published research on injuries associated with strollers and carriers in the Nov/Dec issue of *Academic Pediatrics* ([DOI: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.07.002](#)). They found that stroller- and carrier-related injuries, specifically those resulting from falls from the product or tip-overs, were important sources of injury for children 5 and younger. Finally, Dr. McKenzie and colleagues published new research on skateboarding-related injuries in children and adolescents (1990-2008) in *Injury Epidemiology* ([DOI: 10.1186/s40621-016-0075-6](#)). They found that skateboarding continues to be an important source of injury for both groups, with 64,572 cases per year; children ages 11-14 were hospitalized more often than younger or older children/adolescents.

Dr. Kelli Will Publishes Two Papers and one Book Chapter on Several Health Behaviors

Dr. Kelli Will and colleagues published research on car safety in *Transportation Research Part F* ([http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.trf.2016.11.013](#)). Make it Click was a school-based program promoting 8–12 year-old (tween) car safety. Evaluated in a pre-post control-group design in four public elementary schools, the intervention group tweens were 3 times more likely to wear belts at follow-up. In a study to understand the impact of adolescent exposure to medical marijuana laws (MMLs) on educational attainment, published in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* ([http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2016.09.002](#)), Dr. Will and colleagues found that MMLs were associated with decreased high school and college educational attainment. Finally, Dr. Will and colleagues contributed a chapter “Actively Caring for our Children” in an [applied psychology book](#) edited by Dr. E. Scott Geller. The chapter, co-authored with Angela Fournier and Kate Larson, focuses on how a parent can benefit from applying the principles of applied behavioral science when raising small children.

Dr. Katie Heinrich’s Publication on the Safety of High Intensity Functional Training for Military Fitness Stimulates Letter to the Editor and a Response

The findings of Katie M. Heinrich and colleagues’ recent publication in *Military Medicine* “Is high intensity functional training (HIFT)/CrossFit® safe for military fitness training?” ([DOI: 10.7205/MILMED-D-15-00273](#)) were questioned in a letter to the editor by scientists from the Uniformed Services University and US Army Special Operations Command ([DOI: 10.7205/MILMED-D-16-00330](#)). Dr. Heinrich and colleagues responded to the letter presenting additional evidence to support their original conclusions in the same journal issue ([DOI: 10.7205/MILMED-D-16-00369](#)).

Dr. Leigh Ann Simmons Publishes Paper on Behavioral Risk Factors for Cancer in Rural Women that was Reported on in Forbes

AAHB member, Leigh Ann Simmons, PhD was quoted in a [Forbes article](#) addressing why improving risk under Trump won’t be easy due to the need to address multiple health behaviors and lack of resources for care. The manuscript “Understanding multiple behavioral risk factors for cancer in rural women” was published in *Public Health Nursing* in November/December 2016 ([DOI: 10.1111/phn.12282](#)).

GRANTS

HOUSTON Academy Set to Train the Next Generation of Health Professionals and Researchers (a product of the AAHB Mentoring Program)



Dr. Daphne C. Hernandez and her colleagues Dr. Craig Johnston and Ms. Claudia Scott (University of Houston) were recently awarded a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) to develop and implement the Houston-area Opportunities for Undergraduate Student Training in Obesity & Nutrition (HOUSTON) Academy (GRANT12124839; 01/01/2017-12/31/2020). Through community partnerships students will be provided applied research and nutrition learning experiences that focus on food insecurity, obesity, and/or research. AAHB Fellows, Drs. Lisako McKyer and Lorraine Reitzel serve as advisory board members.

Two Grants Awarded to Dr. Kelli E. Will

Kelli E. Will, PhD was awarded Grant No. M2PE-2017-57097-6746 “Reenergizing ‘Boost ‘em in the Back Seat” from the US Department of Transportation & Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (Federal 402 grant mechanism; \$101,022, 10/1/16-9/30/17). Dr. Will is also Co-I on “Assessing the Impact of Smoke Free Public Housing on Smoking Behavior, Environmental Tobacco Smoke, Third Hand Smoke, Other Tobacco Use, and Smoking-Related Disparities” awarded by the Housing and Urban Development Healthy Homes Technical Studies Research Program (PI: A. Plunk, \$502,592, 10/1/16-9/30/19).

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