



AMERICAN
ACADEMY
OF HEALTH
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SOCIETY OF HEALTH
BEHAVIOR SCHOLARS AND
RESEARCHERS

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President
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Dear Academy Members and Colleagues:

As President of the American Academy of Health Behavior, I am pleased to welcome you to our 11th annual scientific meeting, **“The Art and Science of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR): Methods, Measures and Evidence for Health Behavior Change.”** This meeting will focus on CBPR foundations, methods, and applications in health behavior research. Conference presenters include both academicians and community partners who are leaders in the CBPR research world.

As you will see in this conference program, we also offer CBPR-related Professional Development Workshops, as well as breakfast Round Tables, Academy Fellow-supported Professional Development Seminars, poster sessions, and evening social events. We expect that this will be the largest conference attendance in Academy history with over 160 current registrants.

The 2011 meeting, sponsored in part by a conference grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, will feature Dr. Meredith Minkler as Keynote Speaker and recognize Dr. John Lowe as the 2011 Research Laureate. On Wednesday morning, Dr. Elaine Borawski will be inaugurated as the 11th President of The Academy and Dr. Lawrence Green will offer the Closing Address. They are joined by a strong slate of speakers and an exciting meeting agenda. Please consult the detailed conference program to identify times of the other exceptional plenary presentations.

I want to thank and commend Dr. Lisa Benz Scott for her vision and leadership in developing the conference program. She has spent countless hours planning the agenda and recruiting top-notch presenters. Thanks also go to Dr. Jeff Hallam who served as the Research Abstract Chair and Dr. Robert McDermott who chaired the Judy Black Award Review committee. Appreciation is also given to the many scholars who reviewed abstracts and manuscripts and who served as poster judges.

I am excited about the opportunity this meeting provides to partner with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Health Scholars Program to establish a mentorship program for early career researchers conducting health disparities and minority health research using a CBPR approach. Early career researchers located across the country will receive individualized mentoring from senior Academy members for a 12-month period that will begin at the 2011 conference. Thanks to Renee Bayer, Barbara Krimgold, Toby Citrin and other leaders of the Kellogg Health Scholars Program for their tremendous support of this mentoring program and the 2011 conference. Thanks also to Dr. Jessica Rath for her leadership and effort in coordinating the call for, and selection of, mentors and mentees.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the AAHB Board of Directors, and to Joanne Sommers- AAHB Executive Director, for their leadership and support this past year. The Board faced many tough issues and made several difficult decisions this past year. But they

deliberated with respect and thoughtfulness. I am deeply grateful for their support of my Presidential agenda and the difficult choices that needed to be made. Appreciation also goes to the many volunteers who served on the AAHB Councils, Workgroups, and Mentoring Selection Panel. Finally, I appreciate the hospitality and assistance provided to us by the management team of the Westin Hilton Head Island Resort and their flexibility in working with us to ensure a successful conference facility.

AAHB leadership looks forward to your reactions to this year's meeting. Please be sure to provide us feedback using our online survey. May you have a wonderful conference experience and join us again next year in Austin, Texas for the 12th annual scientific meeting.

It has been a remarkable journey and one that has taught me many valuable lessons. The decision to relocate the conference was one of the most difficult professional challenges I have ever faced. Whether you agreed or disagreed with the ultimate decision, I hope you respect the open, thoughtful process that Academy leadership undertook to ensure everyone's voice was heard and carefully reflected upon. This is what a CBPR scientific process should be all about.

In the end, I leave you with this quote that I derived at the height of my deliberations:

"Where some see barriers, others see opportunities....Embrace the challenges, find solutions." I thank everyone who contributed to the solutions this year.

Thank you for allowing me this wonderful opportunity to serve the Academy and its membership.

Respectfully and humbly,

David Wyatt Seal, PhD
2010-2011 AAHB President