

**Steve Sussman, Ph.D**  
**7<sup>th</sup> AAHB President (2007-2008)**

**When did you attend your first Academy annual meeting?** I went to my first Academy annual meeting in the Year 2000. I have been a member since then.

**What attracted you to AAHB?** I felt that there was an excellent group of like-minded researchers, who shared my general area of research interests. I felt a lot of academic and social support during most of my time in AAHB.

**What do you value about the Academy and why did you choose to be involved as President?** I have been given more professional organization opportunities in AAHB than in any other organization I have been involved with. People in the Academy wanted me to be President and so I ended up taking on this role.

**What was your vision for AAHB when you assumed the role of President?** My goals back then included: (1) increasing membership up to at least 500 members; (2) having a home journal that was organization-run (which is impossible with a small membership); and (3) encouraging mentorship with young researchers and graduate students to increase growth (I believe that has happened a great deal). In addition, I had thought that we might consider changing the name of the organization to International Academy of Health Behavior (IAHB) to facilitate more global involvement.

**What was your biggest accomplishment as President?** I am not sure that the year of my presidency produced a big impact. Possibly, a mentoring emphasis did increase. There was some growth in membership. The conference that year did make money.

**Where do you see AAHB in the next 10 years?** Since my days as President, extremely high caliber researchers continued to join AAHB due to the work and increasing visibility of the general membership. I envision this continuing to occur. I hope that membership will continue to increase, and that we will have a home journal. I am not sure which research directions the organization will emphasize. However, we always seem to be at the forefront. Finally, I am hoping there will be more competitively presented paper presentations/symposia as well as poster sessions.

**Do you have any advice for students and early career researchers?** Be good at working with people, be good in methods, be good substantively, be persistent but flexible; follow your research desires and meld them at least in part with what is realistic; be hopeful; enjoy your work.