March 4, 2018

Dear Academy Members and Colleagues:

As President of the American Academy of Health Behavior, I am pleased to welcome you to the 18th Annual Scientific Meeting—An Equity Approach to Health Behavior Innovations. The meeting will provide attendees with the opportunity to interact directly with and learn from the field’s best researchers and leaders actively engaged in this vital area of work.

We have a very strong slate of nationally and internationally known speakers and an exciting meeting agenda. The speakers will reflect on what we know and how to move forward with an equity approach in conducting novel, rigorous, and thought-provoking health behavior research. In addition, this year’s conference includes two exceptional professional development luncheons on “Keys to Quality Mentorship and Productive Collaborations: Lessons Learned from AAHB Scholars” and “Natural experiments: Innovative methodology in applied health promotion and chronic disease research”, as well as breakfast roundtables, peer-reviewed poster sessions, un-plugged events, and evening socials. We will have the State of the Academy annual business meeting Tuesday at 3:30 pm. This meeting is open to all conference attendees. Please join us for the Awards Breakfast on Wednesday morning as we celebrate our awardees and the contributions they have made to the Academy and to our discipline. Immediately following the Awards Breakfast on Wednesday morning we will conclude with an engaging dialogue led by several Research Laureates of the Academy as they discuss their perspectives on equity approaches to health behavior research.

At the opening session on Sunday evening we will proudly recognize Dr. John D. Clapp as the 2018 AAHB Research Laureate and Drs. Shervin Assari, Adam Barry, Elaine Borawski, Kenneth Michael Cummings, Derek Griffith, Eric Walsh-Buhi, and Robert Weiler as the 2017 Class of AAHB Fellows. On Tuesday evening, Dr. Mark Reed will be inaugurated as the 18th President of The Academy.

The planning for our annual meeting is a task requiring considerable effort and time. The Board of Directors and the Conference Planning Committee have worked for over two years to bring this program you. I want to thank Drs. Erika Trapl and Lisako McKyer for their leadership in coordinating and leading our conference planning and Dr. Annie Nguyen for directing this year’s research review and poster abstract process. All members of the Conference Planning Committee dedicated countless hours to bring us a top-notch slate of speakers and research. I also want to thank each of the Board members who dedicate their time and energy to serving the Academy throughout the year and the person who keeps us all moving forward - Joanne Sommers, our Executive Director, who ensures that the day-to-day operations of the Academy run smoothly and efficiently!

You will be receiving an email shortly after the meeting to complete our online meeting evaluation. We look forward to receiving your feedback regarding this year’s meeting.

Best wishes for an engaging and enjoyable Annual Scientific Meeting!

M. Renée Umstattd Meyer, PhD MCHES
2017-2018 AAHB President


2017-2018 Board of Directors

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2018 Conference Planning Committee

- Erika Trapl, PhD & E. Lisako McKyer, PhD: Conference Planning Committee Co-Chairs
- Leigh Ann Simmons, PhD: Resource Development Chair
- Annie Nguyen, PhD: Research Review Committee Chair
- Mary Steinhardt, EdD, LPC: Professional Development and Mentoring Council Chair
- Adam Barry, Ph.D.: Conference Planning Committee Past Chair
- Jessica Rath, PhD: Treasurer
- M. Renée Umstattd Meyer, PhD, MCHES: President
- Katie Dolphin, PhD: Marketing and Communication Council Chair and Local Host,
- E. Lisako McKyer, PhD, FAAHB: Equity and Diversity Council Chair
- Matthew Lee Smith, PhD, FAAHB: Awards Council Chair
- Joanne Sommers, M.Ed., CHES: Executive Director

Poster Award Judges:

- Ruopeng An
- Jason Daniel-Ulloa
- Anna Greer
- Daphne Hernandez
- Hsien-Chang Lin
- Wenhua Lu
- Jay Maddock
- Phillip Massey
- Julie Merten
- Roy Oman
- Mary Steinhardt: Steve Sussman

2018 Abstract Reviewers:

- Adam Barry
- Alison Oberme
- Amir Bhochhibhoya
- Ana Cristina Lindsay
- Andrea DeMaria
- Andrea McDonald
- Angela Bowman
- Angela Paschal
- Ann Amuta
- Anna Greer
- Annie Nguyen
- Ashley Merianos
- Audrey Rehberg
- Aya Yoshikawa
- Barry Rosen
- Blair Coleman
- Brie Turner-McGrievy
- Brittany Rosen
- C. Emily Hendrick
- Carolyn Johnson
- Cheryl Der Ananian
- Chia-Yuan Yu
- Christina Bridges
- M. Renée Umstattd Meyer
- Marie Boman-Davis
- Mark Reed
- Mary Greaney
- Mary Steinhardt
- Mary Step
- Matthew Rossheim
- Matthew Smith
- Megan Knapp
- Sheryl Chatfield
- Shervin Assari
- Shinduk Lee
- Stecy Griner
- Steve Sussman
- Sheryl Chatfield
- Shervin Assari
- Shinya-Maon
- Muhammad Torabi
- Mohammad Torabi
- Helen Tarp
- Kelly Yilitalo
- Nicole Yuan
- William Cabin
- Lingling Zhang
- Philip Massey
- Yuan Huang
- Lisa Wigfall
- Rachael Nolan
- Randolph Hubach
- Rosenda Murillo
- Roy Oman
- Sarah Griffen
- Sarah Maness
- Shambhavi Singh
- Shana Walsh
- Shinduk Lee
- Stacey Griner
- Steve Sussman