

American Academy of Health Behavior Presidential Note

Mark B. Reed, PhD

*Corresponding author can be reached at: mreed@mail.sdsu.edu

AAHB members and friends,

As I begin my year as President, I would like to share what brought me to AAHB and why I consider the Academy my professional home. I was invited to join AAHB by Fellow and 2018 Research Laureate, Dr. John D. Clapp and I attended my first meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina in 2011. Although John was the only person I knew at the meeting, I was welcomed by so many friendly faces and was grateful to have had the opportunity to chat with some of the most prolific health behavior researchers in the field. After my first meeting in Hilton Head, I knew I would be coming back year after year.

What I appreciate most about the Academy is our multi-disciplinary focus. As a trained social psychologist with an academic appointment in a School of Social Work and a public health research agenda, AAHB has been a home where my interdisciplinary professional background is embraced. As my professional home, AAHB has contributed significantly to both my personal and professional growth and I owe a debt of gratitude to all who have come before me and have contributed to building such an amazing organization. The success of AAHB comes not from a single person. The Academy's success is derived from its members—the founding and charter members, fellows, student members, full and affiliate members—and it is from its members that the Academy has developed into a thriving organization focused on research excellence, quality mentoring, and a commitment to improving the public's health.

I am excited for what the next year brings and would like to briefly outline some of my vision for my tenure as President. One goal I have for the Academy is to broaden and increase our membership. In order to remain sustainable going into the future, I would like to work with the board and our current members to increase our active membership to at least 200 members. Using the vast social capital within the Academy, I challenge each of you to invite a colleague, new PhD graduate, post-doc, or graduate student to join AAHB.

I am also committed to developing opportunities to engage members outside of and beyond our annual meeting. Our first AAHB webinar hosted by Dr. Nadia Islam provided an excellent opportunity to foreshadow content of the 2018 meeting. Moving forward, the board is planning additional webinars for members and I would also like to explore the idea of developing special interest groups within the Academy that could serve to foster collaborations within and across the research areas of our members.

As an educator, I am also committed to student development, learning, and success. Our current student members will be our future affiliate and full members, fellows, and Research Laureates. Thus, I would like to also promote and increase student participation within the Academy.

The theme and focus of our 2018 meeting exemplified the importance of diversity within a health behavior organization. Health equity involves attaining the highest level of health for all

people. In order to achieve equity, we need to continue to support diverse voices and perspectives within the Academy. During my tenure as President, I plan to work with the board, the Diversity and Equity Council, and the Membership council on this issue and invite ideas from all of our AAHB members.

I look forward to the next year as President of the Academy and to working with all of you to promote and support health behavior research into the future. I'll see you next March at the Westin Poinsett in Greenville, South Carolina for our 2019 annual meeting with the theme of "Theory and Application of Multiple Health Behavior Change."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark B. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mark B. Reed
American Academy of Health Behavior President (2018-2019)