

February 28, 2004

Dear Members of the Academy, Other Colleagues and Guests:

As President of the American Academy of Health Behavior I am pleased to welcome you to the Academy's Fourth Scientific Meeting. This year's Program Chair, Dr. Karen Liller, Abstract Chair, Dr. Virginia Noland, the Board of Directors, and five Session Chairs have spent the past 11 months working arduously to prepare an outstanding conference for us to be delivered over the next four days.

Sunday night highlights include our celebratory welcome dinner, presidential address, and award and other special recognition ceremonies, culminating in the featured presentation by this year's recipient of the Academy's Research Laureate Medallion, Dr. Cheryl L. Perry.

Monday's opening scientific session includes three perspectives on interventions to reduce tobacco use. The day's second plenary brings three presentations involving applications of behavioral science to the challenge of injury prevention. Tuesday's offerings include three papers concerning the data rich area of adolescent health decision-making as it relates to brain development, psychosocial maturity, and parental influence. I am excited about serving as moderator for Tuesday's second plenary, an interactive panel discussion on future directions in health behavior research that includes each of the Academy's first four Research Laureate recipients. On Wednesday, the Academy offers you three perspectives on emerging issues in health behavior research from an international perspective. The formal conference closes Wednesday with the Inaugural Address of incoming Academy President, Dr. Mohammad R. Torabi.

Consult the detailed conference program to find the times and locations of breakfast roundtable discussions Monday through Wednesday, professional development and workshop sessions following scientific presentations on Monday and Tuesday, and daily poster presentation events, as well as the Academy's Fellow-sponsored reception on Monday.

There is much to be excited about over the next few days. Moreover, it is a privilege to serve as President and to preside over a superb program in this unique environmental treasure of Sedona, and surrounded by so many accomplished scholars whose sustained work over many years have enriched us one and all.

With best wishes for an enjoyable conference,

Robert J. McDermott, PhD, FAAHB

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President