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ABMR President's Newsletter

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December 18, 2017

Dear Fellows of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research (ABMR):

I want to begin this newsletter by thanking James McCubbin for hosting last June's excellent meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Thanks are due as well to Fellows, guests, and speakers whose enthusiastic contributions make our annual meetings so informative and stimulating. I also extend congratulations to our 2017 Neal Miller Young Investigator Award honoree, Jennifer Sumner, and thank her for presenting her research on traumatic stress and its physical health consequences. Since our annual meeting, the Executive Council has continued to work steadfastly on the Academy's behalf. Let me update you.

ABMR Membership: This fall, under the leadership of Anna Marsland, ABMR Membership Chair, the Executive Council reviewed membership nomination packages and elected new members to the Academy. I extend a warm welcome and congratulate Simon Bacon, Claudia Buss, Lisa Cooper, Sonja Entringer, Jeffrey Gonzalez, Ian Kronish, Kim Lavoie, Sylvia Nair, and Julia Rowland on their meritorious election to the Academy. The Executive Council is appreciative of the thoughtful preparation and submission of nomination packages by fellow members.

**Dr. Suls is serving in a personal capacity, and not as a representative of the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, or the United States Government*

ABMR Treasurer Report: During the fall Executive Council meeting, Joe Schwartz, ABMR Treasurer, gave an update on the Academy's financial health. The encouraging news is that we are the healthiest we have been in the past 12 years, an achievement most laudably supported by revenue from the 2017 annual meeting and Jim McCubbin's R13 conference grant award. However, Joe noted that the Academy's financial sustainability "...will require continued diligence." Although ABMR has not invested in new projects that need much capital, expenses are incurred to host the annual meeting, retain our part-time administrative resource, honor the Neal Miller Young Investigator Award, and participate as an affiliate of the International Society of Behavioral Medicine.

ABMR Annual Dues Reminder and Other Ways to Support the ABMR Mission: The Academy's financial sustainability and ability to host our annual meeting depend on our prompt remittance of membership dues. Take time today to pay your annual dues. You can remit payment through the ABMR website at <http://www.academyofbmr.org/#/members-pages>. When you visit the website, you will see options to make a legacy donation or become a member of the 100/100 Club in support of the Academy's mission. To commemorate ABMR's 40th anniversary, Liz Brondolo and Joe Schwartz will spearhead the "\$40 for 40" campaign, and they assert that members will not want to miss an opportunity to receive anniversary swag!



ABMR 2018 Annual Meeting: You certainly do not want to miss the 2018 annual meeting which will be held at the Sonesta Resort at Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. The annual meeting will start at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 27th and conclude Saturday, June 30th mid-evening. The theme of the 2018 annual meeting is "Realizing George Engel's Vision: Behavioral Medicine, Multiple Levels of Analysis and Multimorbidity." Symposia and keynotes will extend and enrich the implications and application of the biopsychosocial model in areas such as multimorbidity, evolutionary perspectives of life history theory, metabolomics, and the connectome. Further, we will hear recent research developments from the Stress Research Network and the NIH Common Fund Program Science of Behavior Change.

In response to suggestions from the membership, symposia will feature 3, rather than 4, speakers and we are allowing more time for Q&A and discussion. These changes will let us capitalize on the collective expertise and experience of ABMR membership. The program will include time for formal introductions of new members and brief research talks. In keeping with a beloved ABMR annual meeting tradition, afternoons will be reserved for leisurely networking. I am excited about plans to honor the 2018 recipient of the ABMR Lifetime Achievement Award. More details about the scientific program will appear soon on the ABMR website (www.academyofbmr.org).

ABMR Annual Meeting Visitor Pass Program: Do consider inviting a colleague to attend our annual meeting through our ABMR Annual Meeting Visitor Pass Program. The program encourages Fellows to invite 'rising stars' or established investigators with ABMR membership nomination potential to attend our annual meeting. We believe the annual meeting is an ideal place to meet and engage with investigators who eventually might be considered for membership; a new feature of our visitor pass program is the opportunity for non-members to share their research during a poster session.

We are offering 13 visitor passes for our 2018 annual meeting. We encourage the invitation of individuals that represent diverse gender, race/ethnicity, and scientific disciplines including clinical medicine (i.e., physicians). To request use of a visitor pass, the ABMR member must register and attend the 2018 annual meeting. All guests invited to attend the annual meeting through the visitor pass program are responsible for their registration costs and travel expenses. Email Lori McBurney at lorimcb33@gmail.com to obtain a visitor pass. Access is on a first come, first served basis through January 31, 2018.



ABMR 2018 Annual Meeting Hotel Reservations: The Sonesta and Hilton Head Island are scenic, and we are happy we were able to reserve it during a prime time. Hotel reservations were negotiated at the conference rate of \$269/night (single or double occupancy), and the resort fee has been waived. Reservations can be made directly on the [Sonesta Resort Hilton Head Island ABMR ReservationLink](#). If you are unable to access the site through the hyperlink, go to www.sonesta.com, choose the Hilton Head Island property, select the preferred dates, and then enter **0619ABMROA** in the group code box. If you prefer to make your hotel reservation by telephone instead, contact the hotel directly at 1-800- SONESTA (800-766-3782) and identify yourself as an attendee of the ABMR conference. Conference rates are available two days before and after the conference dates for those who wish to spend more time at the beautiful resort and surrounding area. Please make conference plans now to assure room availability.

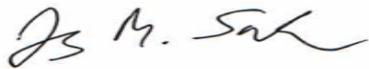
Travel to Hilton Head Island: Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport (SAV) is served by most major airlines and is located 48 miles from the Sonesta Resort Hilton Head Island. Hilton Head Airport (HHH) has commuter air service from US Airways and is located on the Island just 7 miles from the resort. The directions from SAV are: I-95 to exit 8 (Highway 278), cross the bridge and stay left onto the Cross Island Parkway, which becomes Palmetto Bay Road. Follow this to Sea Pines Circle and exit the Circle onto Highway 278 (third exit). The Shipyard Plantation and the Sonesta Hilton Head Island Resort itself are on your right at the third light

[ABMR Neal Miller New Investigator Award](#): Stay alert for the call for nominations for the ABMR Neal Miller New Investigator Award. Consider nominating an exceptional junior colleague for this prestigious award. The awardee will give a keynote address highlighting their research at the ABMR annual meeting in Hilton Head.

[ABMR Election Nominations](#): Each year, the society elects a new President (in this case, for 2019-2020) and two new members to the Executive Council. Please send your nominations to our secretary, Paige Green (paige.green@nih.gov). Self-nominations are accepted. The deadline for nominations is January 25, 2018.

Our planning for ABMR 2018 seeks to continue the 40-year tradition combining an exceptional scientific program presented in an informal setting with a scenic landscape and many leisurely activities during afternoon breaks. I, for one, look forward to the “zero-entry” lagoon pool-whatever that is! Please attend; and if you are new to the organization, don’t put-off the special “sauce” that is ABMR. I hope to greet you in Hilton Head.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. M. Suls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Jerry Suls, PhD
ABMR President