

December, 2010

Dear Colleague:

I hope this letter finds you having a productive year and enjoying the holiday season. On behalf of all attendees of the superb ABMR meeting at Bodega Bay, I would like to thank Phil McCabe and all of those involved in hosting such a wonderful event. Great presentations, a spectacular setting, excellent food, and stimulating conversation and fun with friends and colleagues made for a first-rate meeting. Thanks are also in order for Karina Davidson and Jerry Suls, for their efforts in hosting another great pre-meeting research training camp for young investigators. Bodega Bay will be a truly hard act to follow, but more on our efforts to create a high altitude version of the McCabe et al (2010) "Blast on the Bay" in a moment.

I would also like to welcome recently elected new members of the Academy – Mustafa Al'Absi, Martica Hall, Anil Sood, Christine Dunkel Schetter, Linda Gallo, and Suzanne Segerstrom. This is an impressive set of distinguished researchers, and we will look forward to their participation in future ABMR meetings. Nominations for new members will be considered again at the June meeting, so please consider submitting nominations to Julian Thayer, our President-Elect who is also continuing to serve as Membership Chair.

Dr. Anna Phillips was honored at Bodega Bay as the 2010 recipient of the Neal Miller New Investigator Award. I'd like to extend our congratulations again to Dr. Phillips, and thank her for a great award address. To the membership, I'd like to extend an invitation to nominate promising early career researchers for this distinguished award. You can find the list of prior recipients and a description of the nomination process at www.academyofbmr.org. This is a wonderful feature of the annual meeting, so please help provide the award committee with a large group of strong nominees and a difficult decision.

Through the presidential initiative of Ken Freedland and the Editorship of Andrew Steptoe (and a distinguished set of associate editors), the two-volume, hardback edition of the ABMR-sponsored *The Handbook of Behavioral Medicine: Methods and Applications* was published by Springer this Fall, with a paperback edition due out next year. Congratulations and thanks to Ken, Andrew, et al. for a major contribution that will serve the field for many years.

In sad news, the Academy recently lost a valued member, long-time Treasurer, distinguished contributor, colleague, and friend – Andy Baum. For many of us who came of age professionally as students of the emerging science of stress, Andy was a major figure in the field very early in his career. His work on environmental stress – especially crowding, but also events and circumstances like the accident at Three Mile Island – represented a major contribution as early as the 1970s and early 80s. He went on to make similarly important contributions

in other aspects of the psychology and physiology of stress, psychoneuroimmunology, cancer, and other topics. His widely-cited contributions included many important empirical works, but also major contributions through integrative scholarship and editing. Andy served in primary faculty appointments at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, and most recently at The University of Texas at Arlington. Andy received many honors and awards, but one is perhaps most relevant for Academy members; he received the American Psychological Association Division 38 Early Career Award for Outstanding Contributions to Health Psychology in the same year that Neal Miller – the founder of the Academy – received the Division 38 Senior Award for scientific contributions. Andy went on to receive that same Senior Award, and to serve as President of Division 38. Andy's legacy includes not only an impressive body of research, scholarship, and service, but also a large number of accomplished doctoral and post-doctoral trainees. Finally, even a far more exhaustive account of this distinguished career could not begin to capture the essence of Andy as a colorful and treasured colleague and mentor. As host of the 2011 meeting, I will make sure we take time to recognize Andy and raise a glass to his many contributions.

Now - more about that meeting. In 2007, President Kathy Light hosted a wonderful ABMR meeting in Park City, Utah. The 2011 meeting will return to Park City, this time at the St. Regis in Deer Valley, June 15 – 18th. Please take a moment to visit their website, for a tour of the hotel and the setting - www.stregis.com/deervalley . There will be pre-meeting activities and events, with the formal program beginning with a reception, dinner, and talk on the afternoon/evening of Wednesday the 15th concluding with a full day of programming including the traditional closing dinner event on Saturday, the 18th . The St Regis is a beautiful hotel on the ski slopes of Deer Valley, about 40 minutes from the Salt Lake City International Airport, a major hub. Deer Valley is adjacent to the town (and ski resort) of Park City, a major winter and summer resort destination – www.utah.com/parkcity . We will schedule the meeting to permit lots of free time in the afternoons, and we will help arrange a variety of activities, including pre-, post-, and intra-meeting possibilities for hiking, biking, fishing, horseback riding, and golf in and around Park City. For those of you considering bringing the family, there are also great activities for kids in Park City and the nearby Salt Lake City area. For those of you considering extending your ABMR trip to include a longer vacation, there are several national parks and other attractions within a few hours drive. As a long-time resident of the area, I'd be delighted to serve as an informal travel consultant; just drop me a line at tim.smith@psych.utah.edu.

The program will have presentations on a wide variety of topics, including cardiovascular disease, cancer, early life experiences, socio-economic status, diversity, aging, and clinical interventions – with a broader theme of “*Mechanisms and Applications across the Lifespan.*” Although rooms will be available for reservation at the ABMR-discounted rates of \$199 (deluxe bedroom) and \$349

(suite) through May 25th, our block is limited in size. So, I encourage you to make your reservation as early as possible. Please go to: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1012224756&key=17F06> for making reservations. Also, please complete the attached pre-meeting registration form as early as possible. Finally, we will again host a pre-conference early investigator research mentorship program, coordinated by Karina Davidson, so please encourage strong candidates to submit an application, as described on the ABMR website.

If you haven't attended ABMR in a few years, this would be a great chance to get reacquainted with the meeting; we would love to see you. For first-timers, I am confident this will become one of your favorite annual meetings – a professionally stimulating and thoroughly enjoyable event. For the more regular attendees, we are looking forward to seeing you again – in the Wasatch Mountains. For all, please let me know if I can answer questions about your trip.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Smith, PhD
President, Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research