

## President's Column

Gary Myers, Ph.D., M.Div.



### Annual Meeting

October is the month that ABSAME traditionally holds its annual meeting, which has historically been an occasion for energizing the organization and connecting with established friends and colleagues as well as introducing new members to the organization. This past year's meeting at Copper Mountain was no exception. The fresh air, the beautiful mountain vistas, and the early snow all contributed to a sense of expectation for the meeting. Translational research was the theme for this year's meeting, which inspired many thought provoking presentations and interesting discussions. Soon both attendees and non-attendees of the meeting will be able to download the presentations from the ABSAME web page, so check our page often for the posting of presentations.

I would like to thank our program co-chairs, Denise Gibson and Nicole Borges, for their hard work and to congratulate them for planning such a successful program. Next year the location of our annual meeting will be San Diego and the theme will be "*Developing and Assessing Core Behavioral Competencies*" I hope all of you will plan to attend what promises to be another successful meeting.

### Service Opportunities

Service opportunities in ABSAME continue to be available. I am happy to announce that Christine Senn and Dennis McNeilly have accepted appointments as ABSAME'S program co-chairs for 2009-2010, but important positions remain open. The organization needs people to serve in the following positions,

**Publicity Manager** ABSAME offers many benefits to teachers of the behavioral sciences, which include stimulating annual meetings, a professional journal that focuses on the needs and interests of behavioral science educators, the production of a highly regarded behavioral science and medicine text, and other teaching resources. But we feel that we have not yet attained enough visibility to attract many of the people who could benefit most by participating in ABSAME. This is why we need a publicity manager—someone who has a knack for getting the word out about a good thing. If you think that you can help us, please let me know at [gmyers@siumed.edu](mailto:gmyers@siumed.edu).

### New Developments

I want to call your attention to some exciting new developments in ABSAME. Recently ABSAME received a request from the NIH for consultation on its new research initiative for the behavioral sciences. In response to this request the ABSAME board produced a focus paper and circulated it to the ABSAME membership for additional contributions. Following the membership's response the paper was sent to the NIH.

The editorial board of the *Annals* is now conducting a feasibility study on making the *Annals* an online journal.

The board has currently recommended a change in ABSAME bylaws that allow the membership to conduct an email vote for ABSAME officers. A ballot will be mailed to all members.

I am looking forward to another exiting year as the president of ABSAME and I would like to encourage everyone to help us get the word out to others about the benefits of ABSAME membership.

Gary E Myers Ph.D.  
President, ABSAME

### Executive Board of Directors

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Executive Director  
Mark Vogel, Ph.D.

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# ABSAME Financial Report Spring 2008

Albert H. Eaton, Ph.D. - Chair Finance Committee

Over the past quarter your finance committee has been working on several projects, especially those that might generate ideas for new streams of income in our organization. We have also been working on formulating a new plan of business for ABSAME.

In late Summer or early Fall, the ABSAME Board of Directors tasked the Finance Committee with searching for new sources of revenue. We've considered numerous ideas, including branding our organization with everything from sweatshirts to coffee mugs, as well as potential grant ideas. Above all else, we want to focus only on ideas that remain true to our organization's vision of who and what we are. This evaluation will continue through the first two quarters of 2008, and we will present strategies to the membership at the 38th annual meeting in San Diego Fall 2008.

More recently, the Board of Directors has asked the Finance Committee to spearhead an outline for a new ABSAME business plan. The purpose is to identify where we have come from as an organization, clearly identify weakness and strengths, and anticipate our organizational future. While this is no small task and will involve some long-term work, we think it is an important step in the life of ABSAME. If you are now curious and want to help you would be welcome.

These are exciting times in ABSAME. We've taken on this project over the past 10 weeks and have, only recently, sent our proposals back to the Board. Thus far, the Board's response seems to be favorable to our plan and we hope to remain integral in the development of this strategic endeavor.

Additionally, the Finance Committee has been debating the ethics of corporate sponsorship. We're looking to define when it's acceptable and why. Our discussions have run through:

- ◆ Does it matter if it's a short term sponsorship vs. long term?
- ◆ Does it matter if it's a Non-Profit vs. Not for Profit vs. For Profit sponsor?
- ◆ Does it matter if it's a prescription drug manufacturer vs. a behavioral sciences book publisher?

All in all, we have a great deal of discussion still to go. Certainly, if we decide to accept corporate sponsorship, we all agree that it would be contractually based and ethically guided.

Finally, we would like to extend our congratulations to OJ Sahler and Jack Carr on the recent news that the book sales for *The Behavioral Sciences and Health Care, Second Edition*, are up 50% from first year sales of the first edition. Well done OJ and Jack in this huge success! ■

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## 2007 Meeting Materials on Website

Mark E. Vogel, Ph.D.

Bring back the memories and learning from the 2007 Annual meeting by downloading documents from the meeting. The ABSAME website now has selected PowerPoint slide presentations and handouts from many of the 22 educational sessions offered at the conference, which was held October 17-20, 2007 at Copper Mountain Resort and Village Copper, Colorado. Most of the documents focus on the theme of the conference ***Behavioral Science Education: Bridging Bench to Bedside***. The collection includes slides from the keynote speeches by Eduardo J. Simoes, M.D.,

MSci, M.P.H., CDC Prevention Research Center, Spero M. Manson, Ph.D., Professor and Head, American Indian and Alaska Native Program, University of Colorado, and Loretta Graham Ph.D., Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

These documents can found on the ABSAME website ([www.absame.org](http://www.absame.org)) by going to the "Past Meetings" section, clicking on the "2007 Annual Meeting", and then look for the "Meetings Materials" menu. The documents that are included in this collection are all those presentations that provided PowerPoint presentations or handouts in an electronic form.

ABSAME is currently preparing a CD-ROM of all the documents along with sound recording of selected sessions. This easy-to-use CD-ROM can be used to refresh you memory about the presentations, help others to know about ABSAME, share with medical school faculty, or anyone else involved in graduate medical education in the behavioral sciences.

The CD-Rom will be mailed free to all conference attendees. Additional copies are available for \$25.00. To order a disk, contact the ABSAME office. ■

# Submit to the Newsletter

Mark E. Vogel, Ph.D. & Jose Calderon, M.D. - Interim Editors

*Progress Notes* needs your submissions! *Progress Notes* collects recent news and other items of interest relating to ABSAME members. Below are a new set of submission guidelines for the *Progress Notes*

- Please submit articles via e-mail to [admin@absame.org](mailto:admin@absame.org)
- Submission will be acknowledged within five business days of receipt.
- Limit each article to 200 words.
- Designate the subject category of the articles in the subject line of the e-mail.
- Attach images in a separate file, preferably as a JPEG.
- Please ensure that citations for publications, grants and presentations are accurate and formatted as intended for publication, as they will be reprinted as submitted.
- We reserve the right to make editorial changes on all submissions

Deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is: July 30, 2008

Thanks - we look forward to receiving your submission. ■

## Publisher's Note

*Progress Notes* is published by the Association for the Behavioral Sciences and Medical Education, 1460 N Center Rd., Burton, MI 48509. *Progress Notes* published two times per year. Submissions and letters to the Editor about issues of interest to the membership are welcome.

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*Mark your calendar*

## ABSAME's 38th Annual Meeting

San Diego, CA - October 16-18, 2008

## Call for Nominations for ABSAME Board

There are three seats to fill on the ABSAME Board of Directors. New Board members will assume their positions at the close of the ABSAME Business Meeting in October 2008. We hope you will consider yourself or a colleague for one of the three positions. The ABSAME Board of Directors is a great opportunity to work nationally with colleagues in behavioral science and medical education.

- 1) President-Elect (non-physician) 3 year term
- 2) Member-at-Large (physician) 3 year term
- 3) Member-at-Large (non-physician) 3 year term

Board members must be members of ABSAME in good standing. Membership on the ABSAME Board of Directors requires a moderate amount of time and effort. The full Board meets face-to-face for a half-day prior to the annual meeting. Board members also communicate via email and in monthly 1 hour long conference calls. Each Board member is encouraged to serve in one or more ABSAME committee and act as liaison to other behavioral science groups. You may nominate as many people as you wish. Self-nominations are encouraged. To nominate, please provide the names, full mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and FAX numbers of nominees. Nominations must be received at the ABSAME Central Office by June 1, 2008.

Send your nominations by email to [admin@absame.org](mailto:admin@absame.org)



## Mark your calendar

# ABSAME's 38th Annual Meeting Call for Papers Now Open

ABSAME 2008  
October 16 - 18  
San Diego, CA

Call for  
Presentations

*Developing  
and Assessing  
Core  
Behavioral  
Competencies*

As residency programs require their residents to obtain competencies in the six defined areas of: (1) patient care, (2) medical knowledge, (3) practice-based learning and improvement, (4) interpersonal and communication skills, (5) professionalism, and (6) systems-based practice, medical schools have also begun to evaluate how their curricula helps to prepare medical students to achieve these same competencies.

To help facilitate and advance behavioral scientists' conversation and consideration of these competencies in undergraduate and graduate medical education, the theme of the ABSAME

2008 Annual Meeting will focus on Developing and Assessing Core Behavioral Competencies. Because the behavioral sciences play a vital role in the education and training of medical students and residents, this year's theme is designed to help behavioral scientists further develop and assess the desired core competencies in their medical school curricula and graduate medical education training.

*Denise D. Gibson, Ph.D.*

*Nicole Borges, Ph.D.*

2008 Program Co-Chairs

**Deadline for Submissions: April 14, 2008**

Submit online at: [www.absame.org](http://www.absame.org)



**Program information  
available online  
[www.absame.org](http://www.absame.org)**



*Enjoy Wonderful San Diego*

Natural beauty, exciting attractions and adventures await in San Diego, California's second largest city. A city rich in cultural and art traditions along with a perfect Mediterranean climate creates an ideal location for ABSAME 08.

The Catamaran Resort Hotel, the meeting hotel, is close to the airport yet offers a breathtaking resort setting with easy access to downtown shops and restaurants. The wide variety of recreational activities within short walking distance of the resort coupled with the close proximity to San Diego attractions such as Belmont Park and Sea World provide attendees to the 2008 ABSAME meeting with the perfect opportunity to couple an extraordinary educational experience with a family adventure.

The Catamaran Resort Hotel offers casual elegance in a tropical paradise with acres of lush foliage and sun-drenched beaches. Situated right on Mission Bay, the world's largest aquatic park, the Catamaran extends sun, sand, and tranquil water to your doorstep with the enticing waves of the Pacific Ocean just 100 yards away. Mission Bay offers boat docks and launches, sail and motorboat rentals, bike and walk baths, basketball courts, and playgrounds for children as well as several wildlife preserves. The area surrounding the private sanctuary of the Catamaran is teaming with restaurants and shopping. The full-service spa and luxury health club offer a complete line of restorative treatments and make the most of the Catamaran's lovely waterfront setting.

For more information on the resort, visit [www.catamaranresort.com](http://www.catamaranresort.com).

# ABSAME 2007 Meeting: Snow Falling on Fir Trees

Bob Wolosin, PhD

The 37<sup>th</sup> ABSAME Annual Meeting, with the theme, “Behavioral Science Education: Bridging Bench to Bedside,” took place October 17-20, 2007 at Copper Mountain Resort, Colorado. Here is a selective sampler of what occurred:

The opening plenary was given by Bud Baldwin and Steve Daugherty. Their thesis was that what the Behavioral Sciences have to offer medical education is not so much knowledge, skills, and attitudes (content) as it is perspectives on what the enterprise is about (context). “Medical education, at its best, should teach students an essential set of lenses through which to see the patient. Teaching mountains of facts not only misses the point, it impedes the process of exposing students to the unique contribution of each of these basic perspectives....The seminal transdisciplinary contribution of the behavioral and social sciences is to be able to provide the perspectives that can assist physicians in understanding their patients as embedded in a larger social and environmental context, and in recognizing how this context combines interactively with biological processes to produce behavior, illness, and health.” A late arrival caused me to miss this talk—guys, sorry I wasn’t there.

An ABSAME moment was provided at the traditional dinner when Bud Baldwin was presented the ABSAME Lifetime Achievement Award; Daugherty’s eloquent remarks on the occasion gave us an appreciation for the towering presence that is Bud.

Eduardo Simoes of the CDC gave a plenary that was, in essence, an impassioned plea for collaboration with medical educators. His agency, the Prevention Research Centers Program, takes research

to practice through community-based, participatory research. For example, prevention research yields community health policies and programs, aids in the understanding of factors that influence health outcomes over time, and helps identify and reduce health disparities. Simoes’ agency awards grants of up to \$800K per

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year for 5 years, and the competition for 2009-2014 begins in October, 2008. For more details, write him at:

[esimoes@cdc.gov](mailto:esimoes@cdc.gov).

Health systems researcher, beware! Ever the iconoclasts, Al Eaton and his group offered up a blistering critique of Electronic Medical Records by presenting an analysis of discrepancies in codes from their institutions EMR and their corresponding ICD-9 codes. Turns out that even the number of codes available for common conditions seen in primary care (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, depression) are widely discrepant between the two. The rub is that any downstream use of the data will be tainted by the inaccuracies introduced when the visit is documented.

Mark Vogel’s intriguingly-titled “Never Eat Shredded Wheat” talk was actually about preventing burnout among first-year residents. (The title encodes the 4 aspects of the project: It’s the “Nutri-



tion, Exercise, Social Support, Wellness Plan.” Hey, Mark—don’t look now, but you missed an S.) The lessons learned from the project’s first two years include allowing for choice among activities, beginning well with an intentional evocation of a reflective mood, and balancing individually-relevant topics with “what’s good for you.”

Hal Ritter, a first time attendee from Texas, (read folksy and down home) provided another ABSAME moment in his talk on the “biopsychosocial-spiritual” model, noting the disconnect among the general public, who overwhelmingly espouse religious beliefs, and the much smaller percentage of APA members who are so inclined. So as to decrease mutual misunderstanding between hospital chaplains and physicians, Hal set up a residency experience in which a resident shadowed a chaplain for one evening—6:00 pm to 1:00 am. One of the outcomes was increased cross-cultural awareness on the part of residents, as well as their learning about a way to approach a patient’s religious orientation at the bedside, to wit: Ask “As your physician, what do I need to know about what your faith guides you

See: **Snow Falling on Fir Trees**; Page 6

# “Bud” Baldwin M.D. Receives ABSAME’s Life- time Achievement Award

ABSAME awarded “Bud” Baldwin its Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Copper Mountain. “Bud” is a member of the original group of physicians and behavioral scientists that founded ABSAME 38 years ago. His vision along with his theoretical and pedagogical contributions makes him

a pioneer in integrating behavioral sciences into health care curricula. Steve Dougherty Ph.D. introduced “Bud” with an account of his achievements and an appraisal of the significance of “Bud’s” contributions to our field. Gary Myers, ABSAME president, presented “Bud” with the award at the ABSAME dinner. ■

## Annals Under New Editorship

Beginning with the 2008 Spring Issue we have a new editor for the Annals. After many years of faithful hard work Jim Campbell has passed the baton of editorship to **Don Self**. Undoubtedly he will continue the tradition of excellence established by his predecessor. For those of you who do not know Don well, the following brief biosketch might be of interest. He is Professor of Humanities in Medicine at The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine in College Station, Texas. He received his undergraduate education at Furman University where he received a B.S. in chemistry and a B.A. in philosophy in 1965 and 1967 respectively. After two years as an industrial chemist he pur-

sued graduate studies in philosophy, receiving his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in 1969 and 1973 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For six years he did cancer research in neuropathology at Duke University Medical Center before embarking upon a teaching career in medical ethics and thus combining his interests in the sciences and the humanities. He has authored over 100 publications and serves on the editorial board of several journals. He is a former co-editor of the Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics. His area of special interest is cognitive moral development theory and its application to the field of healthcare. ■

### *Continued from Page 5* Snow Falling on Fir Trees

towards as I make recommendations for your medical care.”

For a compelling story of how to beat the odds, it would be hard to beat Spero Manson’s lunch plenary, “Personal Journeys, Professional Paths: Navigating the Crossroads.” Manson contrasted the odds of winning the Colorado lottery with being successful in the competitive world of NIH grants among American Indians. But his post-residency/post doctoral Native Investigator Development Program does exactly that. Enrollees undertake a two-year training period with targeted didactic instruction, and intensive mentoring with an interdisciplinary faculty to prepare themselves to compete successfully for NIH grants. As an example, he provides a biostatistics mentor as well as an English composition professor to and previous editors of the Journal of General Internal Medicine to review his students’ manuscripts. Through the use of Native American role models, an active research program, and a tough-love insistence on the highest levels of accountability for performance, Manson’s program has produced a cadre of successful Native American academic investigators.

Of course, there was more good stuff that I don’t include in this sampler. One thing I learned is that 9,750 feet of elevation is high enough to cause me acute altitude sickness. But I was not the only casualty: one of our members required medical assistance for syncopal episodes at the traditional dinner/introductions; one required oxygen per nasal cannula, and one returned home early because of discomfort. *Note to program committee: Try to keep future meetings at no higher than 8000 feet—apparently, Vail’s meeting from a couple of years ago did not exact the same toll as that of Copper Mountain.* ■

## Annals Call for Papers

The editors of the Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education would like to invite you to contribute to the Annals. We are looking for papers for publication in the Fall 2008 issue. If you have something that you have thought about writing but have not done so yet, please do it now. Any manuscript received by June 1 will receive a full review no later than August 15.

You may submit this information electronically via email to:  
dself@tam.u.edu

*Thank you,*  
Don Self Ph.D.  
Editor