

WELCOME LETTER

The Behavioral, Epidemiologic and Health Services Research Group (BEHSR) is one of the scientific groups of the International Association for Dental Research. The mission of BEHSR is to promote and encourage research in all areas of the behavioral and social sciences and health services as related to dental, oral, and craniofacial health. Specific scientific areas promoted by BEHSR include research on professions and public education; epidemiology of oral diseases; prevention; behavioral studies of oral health-related pain, anxiety, fear, and stress; health behavior; utilization of dental services; clinical decision analysis; evaluation of alternative treatments, delivery systems and their effects on oral health; among myriad other topics.

BEHSR typically has a membership of more than 750 professionals and students from multiple disciplines and is truly international. It is one of the largest scientific groups of the IADR. The Group is active in fostering excellence in behavioral, epidemiological, social and health services research through a variety of mechanisms, as noted here.

1. BEHSR organizes scientific poster and oral presentations, symposia, workshops, and other special lunchtime and breakfast programming at meetings of the IADR
2. Sponsors the annual Oral Epidemiology Forum (“Epi Forum”) held at both IADR and AADR meetings
3. Organizes and sponsors special events, such as the 2020 Behavioral and Social Oral Health Sciences Summit
4. Rewards outstanding contributions in its scientific arenas
5. Organizes social events at meetings of the IADR
6. Assists the IADR in developing plans for its annual meetings
7. Maintains a website on the IADR server describing its activities
8. Interacts with the leadership of the IADR on many levels

Currently the Group rewards scientific accomplishments through a number of awards:

- The IADR Behavioral Sciences and Health Services Research Distinguished Scientist Award, recognizes meritorious research in the behavioral/social sciences and health services, and is funded by Sunstar Butler.
- The Giddon Award for Distinguished Research in the Behavioral Sciences recognizes a recent research paper published in the fields of social or cultural anthropology, education, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, or social work applied to dentistry, an award made possible by a generous contribution from Dr. Donald B. Giddon.
- The Aubrey Sheiham Award for Distinguished Research in the Dental Public Health Sciences recognizes a recent research paper – whether applied or basic research – published in the field of dental public health, including epidemiology, biostatistics, health services, community-based prevention or health promotion, environmental health, health economics or health policy as applied to dentistry.
- The Lois Cohen International Travel Award recognize excellence – as demonstrated in abstracts submitted in response to the regular call for abstracts for the IADR/AADR general session – in behavioral science/health services research, and are awarded to a pre-doctoral/post-doctoral student or to a junior faculty member who are affiliated with

institutions located in countries designated as lower middle income or below according to the World Bank Classification.

- Two BEHSR Outstanding Student Abstract Awards recognize excellence in behavioral and social science/health services research, as demonstrated in abstracts submitted in response to the regular call for abstracts for the IADR/AADR general session, with one award to be given to a pre-doctoral student and one award to be given to a post-doctoral student.
- The IADR/Lion Dental research Award for Junior Investigators stimulates junior researchers by: (a) recognition of outstanding and innovative research in basic dental science for the improvement of public dental health, and (b) recognition of applied research achievements for improvement and development of oral care products for the prevention of oral disease. This award is made possible by a generous donation from the Lion Corporation, Tokyo, Japan.

The Group interacts extensively with other Groups in IADR. BEHSR often works with other Groups to co-sponsor scientific symposia and poster and oral presentation sessions. Members of BEHSR also are frequently selected to present or give posters in scientific sessions wholly sponsored by other Groups.

The Group interacts extensively with the leadership of the IADR. BEHSR members currently are serving on IADR Committees and have been elected to IADR offices. Members also are active in their Divisions, such as AADR.

The BEHSR Group is open to any member of the IADR. As membership in one scientific group is included with IADR membership, we encourage our colleagues to designate BEHSR as their primary affiliation. If a member has designated another group as their primary membership, then they are invited and encouraged to join BEHSR for a modest additional fee, allowing them all rights and privileges of BEHSR membership. BEHSR especially encourages students and other trainees to become members and participate in Group activities. IADR members may belong to as many Groups as they wish.

BEHSR encourages all of its members to be active in the work of the Group. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend Business Meetings held during IADR meetings. Other opportunities to contribute to the Group include becoming an elected officer (nominations due around January of each year), helping to review abstracts submitted for the AADR and IADR meetings, serving on award selection committees and on other special workgroups. Interested members should contact any of the current BEHSR officers (listed on the Group's home page) who can help explore opportunities for participation.

In its mission to promote oral research in the behavioral and social sciences and health services, BEHSR strongly encourages the submission of creative and high-quality abstracts describing research findings in presentations and posters for the annual IADR and AADR meetings. It also encourages suggestions for symposia – oral presentations along a cohesive theme of great interest to BEHSR and other IADR members. Ideas should be directed to the BEHSR Program Director or Symposium Coordinator. Symposia applications are usually due around August of

each year, and abstracts for posters and oral presentations usually are due in October. Instructions for submission are distributed by the IADR well in advance of the due dates.

Thank you for your interest in BEHSR; we look forward to your becoming involved in the Group!

Daniel W. McNeil
Co- President

Georgios Tsakos
Co-President