



May 25, 2005

Dear SPR members and meeting participants,

As I conclude my term as president, I am pleased to call your attention to three important new documents produced this year that are designed to help advance SPR's strategic goals.

First, the journal article explicating SPR's Standards of Evidence and the reasoning behind those standards has been accepted for publication in *Prevention Science*. The article, written collectively by SPR's committee on standards of evidence chaired by Brian Flay, is called *Standards of Evidence: Criteria for Efficacy, Effectiveness and Dissemination*, by Flay et al. The full article is already available on line at www.springerlink.com and will appear in print in the September, 2005 issue of *Prevention Science*. Congratulations to the committee on this major contribution to ensuring the quality of prevention science. I am also pleased to note that this committee, under Brian's continuing leadership, has agreed to tackle the important question of standards that must be met for trials to be considered replications of previous trials.

The second document, *A Case for Braided Prevention Research and Service Funding* was developed by an SPR task force chaired by David Olds. This document which is in your packet and available online makes a strong case for the need for effectiveness trials and dissemination research to further the advances of prevention science. Further, it explains why and how collaborative funding across institutes that fund research and agencies that provide funding for preventive services could advance both knowledge regarding effective preventive interventions and the provision of evidence based preventive services at a broader scale. David Olds, Wilson Compton, Director of the Division of Epidemiology, Prevention and Services Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Stephenie Colston, Special Assistant to the Administrator, from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and Jon Baron, Executive Director, Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy will discuss progress and prospects for braided funding in a roundtable Thursday, May 26 at 10:30 AM.

The third document, *Advocacy for Prevention Science* describes scientific advances and principles which form a foundation for advocacy for prevention science. The document is in your packet and available online. The document provides a list of specific actions and principles which SPR's board agrees are worthy of public policy advocacy. This document, produced by SPR's newly reconstituted Advocacy Committee chaired by Bob Saltz, and initiated by SPR's incoming president, Tony Biglan, provides guidance to the SPR board and SPR members as we seek to become more actively involved in education and discussion with policy makers toward the achievement of SPR's mission.

It has been a great privilege to serve as your president. I am excited by the vision, energy and leadership of SPR's incoming president, Tony Biglan. I look forward to working with Tony and you to advance public health through prevention science.

Sincerely,

J. David Hawkins
President