Dr. Steven Schinke is one of the leading prevention scientists in the world and has made major contributions to various aspects of prevention science from the conceptual level to the practical level, positively affecting the behavioral development of children and adolescents. His academic career has been devoted to the advancement of prevention science, with a focus on adolescent populations. Across his research, he has reported findings from prevention trials conducted on a host of health behavior problems associated with adolescents.

Dr. Schinke and his team have developed and tested prevention models to equip adolescents with cognitive-behavioral skills for addressing a range of health behavior risks including pregnancy among adolescent girls and sexual risk-taking related to STIs and HIV/AIDS. He and his colleagues have gone on to apply their cognitive-behavioral prevention approaches for adolescents to reducing risks of drug use and abuse, and the risks of early and problematic alcohol use.

A major thrust of Dr. Schinke’s work has been to culturally adapt, implement, test and disseminate prevention models for tobacco use among youth. This program of research produced various intervention materials that are now nationally disseminated by the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Schinke has been an integral part of the Society for Prevention Research from its inception. He was one of the founding members of SPR, served as its first President, and helped to incorporate SPR as a nonprofit entity. With the help of his wife, Mary Schinke, Attorney at Law, Dr. Schinke established the initial organizational framework for SPR, including its membership, financial, governance, and annual meetings structures. Dr. Schinke was one of
the first Associate Editors to the Prevention Science journal and has served in that capacity for more than 15 years. Among colleagues both nationally and internationally, Dr. Schinke is highly respected and his advice is greatly valued. As a result, he has not only had a major influence of prevention research in the U.S., but also in numerous other countries interested in improving prevention through the use of science-based methods.