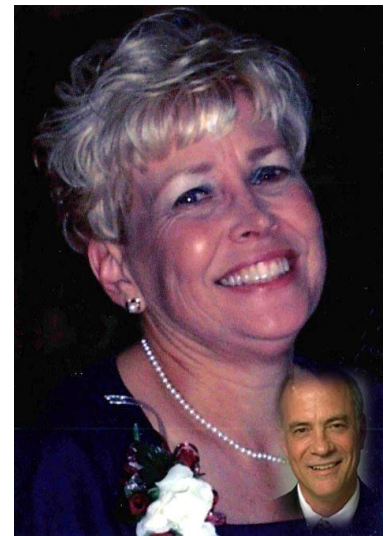




Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award

A HISTORY OF A LASTING LEGACY

This award commemorates the life and honors the memory of Judy K. Black. Judy was the wife of Purdue Professor Emeritus, Dr. David R. “Randy” Black, who served as one of four executive committee members to establish the Academy and was a past president (2005-2006). Judy died tragically in a traffic accident on January 31, 2003. Judy’s legacy was to foster the development and enhance the skills of others and to encourage them to maximize their full potential while making the world a better place to live. Maximizing potential meant to her to “mine” opportunities, to report new discoveries, to make major contributes to society, and to make the future brighter and more hopeful. The awardees listed in this document exemplify Judy’s legacy.



Judy also was an exemplar in how she led her life. She was a devoted wife, mother, and life partner. She was a mentor and confidant to graduate students who Randy supervised throughout his tenure at Purdue. She would talk with students on the phone, share her home, offer meals, and host social events so students could get to know her and each other. She provided insights about how to succeed in graduate school and life, and modeled the importance of maintaining balance while accomplishing a variety of personal and professional responsibilities. It was always clear that God and her family were her top priority.

This award of the American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB) recognizes early-career health behavior research that is innovative and rigorous and that makes an important contribution to science or practice.








To date, nine outstanding scholars have received this prestigious award since its inaugural year in 2006. To be eligible to receive the award, applicants must be:

- An AAHB Affiliate or Full member in good standing for 2 years
- In the early stage of their career (within 5 years of post-doctoral or other terminal degree)

To be selected for the award, applicants must first submit an abstract for presentation at the AAHB annual meeting and indicate their interest in being considered for the award. Their submitted abstract should clearly reflect data-based, meta-analytic, or theory development research related to health behavior. If these criteria are met, applicants are asked to submit an official application packet consisting of a:

- A complete manuscript representing their submitted abstract
- A research statement highlighting their research interests, career ambitions, and accomplishments
- A full curriculum vitae
- Two letters of support

After a thorough and rigorous review of application packets by the AAHB Awards Council, an awardee is selected. The awardee is recognized at the annual conference and receives a waived registration fee and personalized plaque.

	Award Recipient	Year Awarded
	Lisa A. Benz Scott <i>Stony Brook University</i>	2006
	Yvonne Brooks (no picture available)	2007
	Award Not Given	2008
	Meena Fernandes (no picture available)	2009
	Yan Alicia Hong <i>Texas A&M Health Science Center</i>	2010
	Award Not Given	2011
	Adam M. Leventhal <i>University of Southern California</i>	2012
	Matthew Lee Smith <i>The University of Georgia</i>	2013
	Kaigang Li <i>Colorado State University</i>	2014
	Ruopeng An <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	2015
	Adam P. Knowlden <i>The University of Alabama</i>	2016



Lisa Benz Scott, PhD, MS

2006 Inaugural Recipient

Lisa Benz Scott, PhD, MS

Director, Program in Public Health, Stony Brook Medicine

Professor, Schools of Health Technology and Management, Medicine (Preventive, Family, and Population; Cardiovascular), and Dental Medicine

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Research Interests and Accomplishments

Dr. Benz Scott has expertise in community-based participatory research and community engaged scholarship, and behavioral research applied to the problem of low rates of referral and enrollment of women and racial/ethnic minorities to outpatient cardiac rehabilitation services in a variety of health care settings and systems. In the last few years, she has focused on intervention research involving lay health advisors who are trained to promote and support health care service utilization as patient navigators. Since the time Dr. Benz Scott was named the inaugural recipient of the Judy K Black award, she has earned tenure (2008) and Full Professor (2015) at Stony Brook University, Health Sciences Center. She now has nearly 15 years of practice and research-based expertise in the fields of health behavior and health communication, community health and patient education, and participatory research in partnership with diverse communities to address priority public health and healthcare issues. She has served as a PI, Co-PI, Co-I, and consultant on research as well as inter-professional education programs, and research mentoring programs that are focused on community engaged research. In addition to her research activities, she is Director of a nationally accredited graduate program in public health (accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health), and served as Associate Dean for Research for the School of Health Technology and Management (2006-2012). She has served on the Board of Directors of the AAHB since 2010 in a variety of roles, most recently as Chair of the Professional Development and Mentoring Council. She has advised/mentored more than 50 graduate students in health professions in her 13 years as a full-time faculty member. She has taught approximately 400 graduate students in topics including patient health education and community health, program planning and implementing, research design, proposal writing, and related topics.

Quote from Dr. Benz Scott

“This award has meant so much to me on both a professional and personal level. I had the pleasure of knowing Judy K. Black from 1994 until her untimely death in 2003. Judy was a beloved friend and mentor to me, along with her husband, a Professor at Purdue University, and founding leader (and Past President) of the Academy, Dr. David R. Black. It was a great loss to many Academy members when Judy died, and I consider it a tremendous honor to be the inaugural recipient of this prestigious award. The scholars who have followed me in earning the distinction as a JKB awardee over the last decade have “upped the ante” in terms of depth and breadth of research contributions at an early stage of their career. I am extremely impressed and humbled to be the first among an exceptional group of scholars, and thank the Academy leaders for continuing to honor Judy’s memory while recognizing rising stars within the health behavior research community.”

Y. Alicia Hong, PhD

2010 Recipient

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Research Interests and Accomplishments

Dr. Y. Alicia Hong is an associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences, School of Public Health, Texas A&M University. Her research interests include: (a) design and evaluate behavioral intervention programs for under-served populations, especially in HIV/STI risk reduction and cancer survivorship; (d) develop and validate culturally-appropriate scales and instruments for health outcome measurements, especially in under-served populations or global health settings; and (c) develop and evaluate mHealth or eHealth programs. Dr. Hong has worked with women at risk of HIV, migrant workers, AIDS orphans, Asian and Latino immigrants, and cancer survivors.

Dr. Hong is a public health professional specialized in social and behavioral intervention, particularly interested in applying mobile tools to promote well-being of vulnerable or underserved populations. She was trained in medical anthropology and public health, giving her the skills to apply both qualitative and quantitative methods to her research. Over the past 12 year, Dr. Hong has participated in 8 federally-funded research projects and served as PI in 4 other grants. She has published more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles, including 25 as the first author.

Over the past 7 years, she collaborated with Baylor Scott & White (BS&W) to study the barriers and facilitators to promote healthy living for obese and diabetic patients. Her team identified individual factors such as self-efficacy and motivation as well as social environmental factors such as communication with providers as critical in patients' adherence to health living. She also was part of the team to pilot-test using mobile tools to promote patient-physician communication and behavioral change. Recently, Dr. Hong led a multidisciplinary team of professionals in public health, nursing, medicine, and engineering, in partnership with BS&W and Central Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network, to develop and test iCanFit, a mobile-enabled web application to promote physical activity for older cancer survivors.

Quote from Dr. Hong

“The Judy K. Black award was an important recognition for me at the early stage of my career. It motivated a young public health professional to become a high-quality scholar and serve as role model for fellow young researcher in the field.”

Adam Leventhal, PhD, FAAHB

2012 Recipient

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Research Interests and Accomplishments

Dr. Leventhal is a clinical psychologist and Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Psychology at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. He is Director of the USC Health, Emotion, & Addiction Laboratory, which applies psychopharmacology and epidemiology to understand the intersection between addiction, health behavior, and mental health. His research identifies intrapersonal and environmental factors that modulate the mood-altering effects drugs and other health behaviors as a means of explaining population-level disparities as a function of gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and psychiatric comorbidities. He has authored more than 120 peer-reviewed publications, been awarded more than \$8M in funding as PI, and has been recognized for his research contributions, having received the Judy K. Black Award in 2012 as well as early career research awards from the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, and APA Divisions 12, 28, and 50. He also is associate editor for *Nicotine & Tobacco Research and Behavioral Medicine* and standing member of the Addiction, Risk, and Mechanisms NIH Study Section.

Quote from Dr. Leventhal

“Receiving the Judy K. Black Award was one of the major highlights of my professional career. To me, the JKB was “proof” that I had advanced to become an independent scientist with a national reputation. It also was part of my initial introduction into the Academy, which I consider to be the leading professional organization dedicated to health behavior science and practice. I express my deepest gratitude to Randy, the Black family, and the Academy for this exceptional honor.”

Matthew Lee Smith, PhD, MPH, CHES, FAAHB

2013 Recipient

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Research Interests and Accomplishments

Dr. Smith has established expertise in survey research methodology, measurement, and evaluation pertaining to an array of public health issues facing the rapidly growing aging population. These skills enable him to investigate lifestyle and socio-ecological impacts on health risk behaviors with a specific emphasis on evidence-based programming for older adults. Dr. Smith's research and evaluation foci surround the reach, adoption, implementation, effectiveness, and maintenance of evidence-based programs for older adults. His ability to form and cultivate interdisciplinary collaborations affords him opportunities to apply his translational research and evaluation experience to bridge research and practice issues among the healthcare sector, aging services network, and public health system. Although Dr. Smith has evaluated numerous evidence-based programs, his particular expertise is within fall prevention and chronic disease self-management. He has been involved in many local, state, and national evaluation initiatives funded by agencies including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Administration on Aging (AoA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Generally, these efforts examine the feasibility of delivering evidence-based programs in diverse settings as well as their implementation with fidelity, health impact, scalability, and sustainability. His evaluation experience associated with the Evidence-Based Program (EBP) movement in the US illustrates his development of a sustainable line of research in the field of aging.

Dr. Smith is currently a PI an NIH-funded RO1 to translate Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) for use in the workplace and a large CDC-funded grant to embed multi-state, multi-level fall prevention interventions including Otago, Stepping On, and Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance as well as the STEADI Tool Kit for healthcare professionals. Dr. Smith has over 170 peer-reviewed publications, received over 15 research-based awards, and has delivered over 230 professional conference presentations. In addition to being an Assistant Professor in The University of Georgia College of Public Health, he also is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public Health.

Quote from Dr. Smith

"This recognition is truly an honor. I consider AAHB to be my professional home because of its composition of high-quality scholars, alignment with my interests in behavioral interventions and evaluation, and avid role in advancing the profession. Receiving the JKB Award was an important benchmark in my professional development in that it highlighted my status as an emerging scholar, which was revered by my colleagues external to the Academy."

Kaigang Li, PhD, MEd, CHES

2014 Recipient

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Research Interests and Accomplishments

Dr. Kaigang Li is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health & Exercise Science, Colorado State University since fall 2015. Kaigang Li received his PhD in Health Behavior from Indiana University School of Public Health at Bloomington (2003-2010), completed post-doctoral work at the University at Albany (2010-2011), and worked as a Research Fellow in the Health Behavior Branch at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (2011-2015). Before coming to the U.S., Dr. Li worked at the China Institute of Sport Science as an Associate Professor in exercise physiology.

Dr. Li has broad background and established expertise in health behavior research including survey study, experimental research, and intervention on child/adolescent/adult health and risk behaviors. Dr. Li's research interests include adolescent drinking and driving, causes and prevention of motor vehicle crashes among novice young drivers, and dose-response association of physical activity with obesity and cardiometabolic risk factors. He has laid the groundwork for the research by applying behavioral theories, implementing research design, and conducting quantitative research methodology and statistics. As Co-Investigator or key personnel Dr. Li has been involved in many NIH-funded intramural and extramural grants such as the ongoing 7-year nationally representative, longitudinal "NEXT Generation Study" project, "Experimental Research on the Effect of Teenage Passengers on Teenage Driving Performance," and "A Childhood Obesity Prevention Program Designed by Families for Families." He has published more than 30 peer-reviewed scientific articles and delivered over 35 professional conference presentations. Dr. Li has served on review board of three journals and a reviewer for over 30 journals.

Quote from Dr. Li

"AAHB is an ideal health behavior research community where I have learned from and been driven by first-rate scholars and their outstanding achievements. Receiving the JKB Early Career Award is great recognition and honor which provided an enormous impetus for continuing my passion and pursuing more achievements in this field."

Ruopeng An, PhD

2015 Recipient

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Research Interests and Accomplishments

Dr. Ruopeng An is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 2013. Before that, he worked as an Assistant Policy Analyst at the RAND Corporation since 2008 and obtained his PhD in Policy Analysis from the RAND Graduate School in 2013. In 2014, Dr. An received the Glenn A. Gotz Award in Economics Analysis from the RAND Corporation, and was twice the recipient of the RAND Impact Award in 2009 and 2011. Trained as a health policy analyst, Dr. An has strong quantitative analysis skills in the field of applied microeconomics, statistics, econometrics, and spatial analysis.

Nearly all Dr. An's peer-reviewed publications involved quantitative analyses using data from randomized controlled trials, large cross-sectional/longitudinal surveys, administration data, insurance data, electronic medical records, etc. His research examines population-level policies on obesity prevention, and health disparities in dietary intakes and physical activities throughout the life-course with specified interests in people with disabilities. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *American Journal of Health Behavior*, *Preventing Chronic Disease*, *Public Health Nutrition*, *Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics*, *Disability and Health Journal*, *Psychiatric Services*, and *Journal of Psychosomatic Research* and featured by numerous media outlets such as New York Times, Los Angeles Times, CNN, NBC, CBS, NPR, Fox News, The Atlantic, USA Today, Washington Post, Boston Globe, and California Senate Republican Caucus Briefing Report. Dr. An serves on the Review Board of the *American Journal of Health Behavior* since 2012, and he is a reviewer for 21 journals in the field of public health, medicine, and health economics.

Quote from Dr. An

"I was truly honored to receive the JKB Early Career Award. It is such a prestigious recognition of my research and fills me with confidence to move forward and do even better."

Adam P. Knowlden, PhD, MBA, CHES

2016 Recipient

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Research Interests and Accomplishments

Dr. Adam Knowlden is an assistant professor in the department of health science at The University of Alabama. He earned his MS and PhD in Health Promotion and Education with a concentration in statistics from the University of Cincinnati in 2013. In 2007, he received his M.B.A. from Franklin University, while employed as a Legislative Analyst for The Columbus City Council (Ohio).

Dr. Knowlden's research centers on the development of health behavior prediction models and experimental interventions for the prevention of obesity and primary sleep disorders in children and adults. Dr. Knowlden has received multiple awards for his research including the 2015 Society for Health Education Horizon Award and the 2015 American Academy of Health Behavior Professional Poster of Distinction Award. His research on sleep and obesity has garnered national and local attention from media outlets including the Huffington Post and The New York Times.

Dr. Knowlden has published over 30 peer-reviewed journal publications in well-recognized, national and international journals such as *Health Education & Behavior*, *Journal of Primary Prevention*, and *Obesity Reviews*. He has presented more than 70 papers at juried international, national, and local research conferences. Dr. Knowlden has received multiple grants to support his research endeavors, including two competitive doctoral fellowships from the University of Cincinnati Graduate School to develop and evaluate a childhood obesity prevention intervention.

In addition to his own research, Dr. Knowlden is enthusiastic about helping other researchers achieve their professional goals. In this regard, he has served on multiple dissertation and thesis committees. Dr. Knowlden is passionate about advancing the state of health behavior research and recently accepted a position as associate editor for the peer-reviewed journal, *Health Education & Behavior*.

Quote from Dr. Knowlden

"I consider the American Academy of Health Behavior the premiere professional organization for health behavior research. I am humbled and honored to receive the JKB Early Career Research Award. I am extremely thankful to my research mentors for the investments they have made into my professional development."