

Formation and Early History of The American Academy of Health Behavior

Robert J. McDermott, PhD, FAAHB; Elbert D. Glover, PhD, FAAHB

Objective: To document the formation and early history of The American Academy of Health Behavior. **Methods:** Recollections and interactions with selected founders of The Academy active in building the organization through its formative years. **Results:** A professional organization came into existence whose sole mission is fostering research skill development and research dissemination across health behavior-related disciplines that in-

creases the likelihood of improved translation and evidence-based practice. **Conclusion:** Creation and survival of this organization required visionary leadership, dedicated early adopters, a commitment to excellence, and outreach to new researchers.

Key words: The Academy, research, AAHB, American Academy of Health Behavior, health behavior, organization formation, meritocracy

Am J Health Behav. 2010;34(5):563-572
