

In this issue, **Inside the Academy** profiles Dr Steven Yale Sussman, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Psychology, Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research, University of Southern California. A native of Chicago, Dr Sussman received a baccalaureate degree in psychology (1976) from the University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana, and a master's degree (1981) and a doctoral degree (1984) in clinical-social psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Since completing his formal education, he has spent his entire career on the faculty of the University of Southern California.

Dr Sussman has achieved distinction in several areas of research endeavor related to substance abuse: drug abuse prevention and cessation; relapse prevention; psychosocial predictors of drug use development and self-initiated cessation; school-based or media-focused drug abuse prevention programs; and empirical program development and methodology. His present research focuses on prediction and prevention of drug abuse in high risk youth and adults. In particular, active studies include ones examining onset, prevention, and cessation of cigarette smoking and smokeless tobacco use as a function of school-based, school-as-community, media-supplemented, or worksite interventions. More than 25 major grants in excess of \$20 million have supported these initiatives since the mid-1980s.

Dr Sussman was the principal investigator of Project Towards No Tobacco Use (*Project TNT*), a tobacco use prevention and cessation program for teens. This program was one of an elite set of programs disseminated nationally by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a "program that works" (1997-2002). *Project TNT* also has received awards and praise

from the U.S. Department of Education, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and several other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

There are at least two other laudable projects with which Dr Sussman has been associated as a key developer and driving force. *Project EX* is a successful adolescent tobacco use cessation program tested through a true field experimental design. *Project Towards No Drug Abuse (Project TND)* is a program for older teens to prevent drug abuse, especially among those at elevated risk. *Project TND* has been identified as a model program by NIDA, Health Canada, and other groups.

His career as a contributor to the body of research is, in a word, astounding. Dr Sussman's research portfolio includes some 170 published articles, three books, over 20 book chapters, scores of abstracts, reports, and Internet citations, and close to 150 presentations delivered at professional meetings and conferences.

Dr Sussman reviews for, or serves in other editorial roles for over 20 prominent journals, mostly in the areas of psychology or addictions. He is a member of multiple grant review committees of the National Institutes of Health, including NCI and NIDA, as well as for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

He is a distinguished member of several professional organizations, including but not limited to, the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy, the American Psychological Association, the Society for Prevention Research, the Society for Behavioral Medicine, the American Academy of Health Behavior, and the International Society for Prevention of Tobacco Induced Diseases. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB). In 2004, Dr Sussman was named as just the fifth recipient of the AAHB's Research Laureate Medallion, and gave the Laureate's keynote address at the AAHB's 2005 Scientific Conference in Charleston, South Carolina.

In closing, one must point out that Dr Sussman has had a major impact on

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evidence-based practice. Having overseen at least seven postdoctoral fellows, and more than 20 MPH and PhD students, he is heavily engaged in transferring his expertise to a new generation of research-

ers. With a strong future projected for this recipient of the AAHB Research Laureate Medallion and one of the AAHB's most distinguished Fellows, we proudly report his achievements **Inside the Academy.**