

Inaugural Presentation of the Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award

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Inaugural presentation of the Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award. Presented at the American Academy of Health Be-

havior 6th Scientific Conference, Carmel Valley, CA, March 6, 2006 to Dr Lisa Benz Scott.

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It is a privilege for me to have been asked to present the inaugural Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award. As some of you know, the award is named for Judy K. Black, who was killed in a traffic accident on January 31, 2001. She was the wife of one of the Academy's founders, and outgoing President, Dr David R. (Randy) Black. Judy was a speech and language pathologist, and a person dedicated to students and teaching. Her teaching career bridged elementary school through the university level, and at Purdue University, her last position was in clinical practice devoted to helping stroke patients through recovery. She also was a devoted wife and mother. She was someone who prized assisting people in maximizing their potential. In addition, she was a mentor to many of her husband Randy's students at Purdue University. Her life and her memory personify the excellence and ideals for which the American Academy of Health Behavior stands.

The selection process for the Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award was a rigorous one. I was privileged to oversee this competitive review of scholarly papers. Six judges examined each of the 5

papers that were submitted for consideration – 3 Fellows of the Academy and 3 other members of the Academy – 3 men and 3 women. All papers were reviewed blindly. No one associated directly with the applicant or the applicant's institution was involved in the review process. Each paper was scored in 4 categories—significance (20 points), innovativeness (10 points), methodological rigor (40 points), and contribution to health behavior research or potential for application in practice (30 points)—for a total of 100 points.

Interrater reliability was an astounding .89, and there was strong consensus among the judges. The highest ranked paper received a mean score of 92.2, and was the top-ranked paper by 5 of the 6 reviewers.

The award recipient's paper is entitled "The Effect of Message Frames and CVD Risk Factors on Behavioral Outcomes." It is a featured presentation of the Wednesday morning (March 8, 2006) poster session.

It is a distinct honor for me to introduce to you the inaugural recipient of the Judy K. Black Early Career Research Award, Dr Lisa Benz Scott. Lisa received her PhD from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, where she also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in community-based participatory research with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Currently, Lisa is a clinical associate professor of Health Care Policy and Management at Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center, School of Health Tech-

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nology and Management, the same university where she studied psychology as an undergraduate.

Lisa is the proud mother of 2 daughters: a 6-month-old and a 4-year-old. But I would like to share a couple of especially notable distinctions about her. She is the youngest of 7 children, raised by parents who both valued education and pursued their own graduate studies while working to support a large family. When her father died of a heart attack unexpectedly at age 58, Lisa was still in high school. Motivated by this tragic loss, she committed herself at an early age to pursue a career focused on understanding social and behavioral determinants of chronic disease prevention and management. She completed her bachelor's degree in psychology at age 19 and credits the support of her

husband and mentors who have nurtured the confidence, skills, and encouragement to succeed.

During Lisa's years at Purdue University, coincidentally, Dr Randy Black worked closely with her, and essentially, he and Judy Black treated her as a member of their family. She was there to provide assistance to the Black family at the time of Judy's tragic death in 2001. The Academy can take great pride and satisfaction in presenting this inaugural award to Dr Lisa Benz Scott, and I am extremely honored to introduce her to you.

Part of receiving the award was the distinction of having her paper accepted and published in the American Journal of Health Behavior; what follows is Dr Scott's paper. ■