

***ViewPoint** features candid conversations with prominent health behavior scholars. The column focuses on the human or interpersonal side of research and addresses such topics as how renowned researchers were initiated into the world of research, why they continue to do it, personal challenges encountered over the years, ingredients necessary to be a success as an investigator, key characteristics and qualities of inspirational mentors, sources of consternation, challenges that lie ahead, hot topics worthy of pursuit, and books and materials that are must reading. The intention is to share the viewpoints and thinking processes of our leading health behavior scholars. We hope that the column will be an inspiration to young and seasoned scholars alike.*

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Dr **Steve Sussman** received his doctorate in social-clinical psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1984. He is a professor of preventive medicine and psychology at the University of Southern California. He studies etiology, prevention, and cessation within the addictions arena, broadly defined. He has over 300 publications. His projects include Towards No Tobacco Use, Towards No Drug Abuse, and Project EX, which are considered model programs at numerous agencies (ie, CDC, NIDA, NCI, OJJDP, SAMSHA, CSAP, Colorado and Maryland Blueprints, Health Canada, U.S. Department of Education and various State Departments of Education). He received the honor of Research Laureate from the American Academy of Health Behavior in 2005, and served as President of the American Academy of Health Behavior (2007-2008). In addition, in 2007, he received the honor of Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Division 50, Addictions).

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