

**From:** [SOM - Faculty Affairs Mail Box](#)  
**To:** [SOM - All Faculty](#)  
**Subject:** From Dr. Levine: Appointment of Dr. Brian Primack as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research on Health & Society  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 2:49:37 PM

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**Dear Colleagues:**

One does not have to look far to observe the accelerating impact of societal changes on health. Technological innovation has proceeded so rapidly, for example, that youth ages 8-18 are now exposed to more than eight hours a day of electronic media messages outside of school, on average. While these emerging exposures pose risks to health, they also may be leveraged to improve health. Policy changes such as passage of the Affordable Care Act have also dramatically changed the landscape of health and health care. While these policy changes present challenges, they also present unprecedented opportunities for research and innovation.

To help lead this work at Pitt, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Brian Primack MD, PhD, as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research on Health and Society. In this new role, Dr. Primack will work with all of the health sciences schools to advance research in this burgeoning area. Brian will also continue as Associate Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Clinical and Translational Science. His multidisciplinary background and research experience uniquely qualify him for this new position.

After graduating from Yale University with degrees in English and mathematics, Brian received his master's degree in education and psychology from Harvard University. He subsequently graduated first in his class from Emory Medical School in 1999. He then came to Pittsburgh, where he completed his medical residency and a PhD in clinical and translational science. Brian now combines his expertise in the social and biological sciences by studying both the positive and negative effects of complex social phenomena on health outcomes. His current R01 from the

National Cancer Institute examines emerging forms of tobacco use.

Dr. Primack's publications have been cited in leading international news sources, including *The New York Times*, *US News and World Report*, and the *BBC*. For his varied expertise, he has been recruited to serve on seven NIH study sections, including a current standing appointment. He has received the highest awards for junior researchers from two major international societies: the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (2006, New Investigator of the Year) and the Society of Behavioral Medicine (2010, Top Early Career Researcher); each of these awards is given to only a single individual annually. Here at the University of Pittsburgh, Brian has been awarded the Provost's Innovation in Education Award (2005), the Cancer Institute Junior Faculty Scholar award (2010), and the Excellence in Medical Student Mentoring Award in both 2013 and 2014.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Brian Primack to this important role.

Sincerely,

Arthur S. Levine, M.D.  
Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences  
John and Gertrude Petersen Dean, School of Medicine  
Professor of Medicine and Molecular Genetics  
University of Pittsburgh  
Scaife Hall, Suite 401  
3550 Terrace Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261, USA  
Phone: (1) 412-648-8975  
Fax: (1) 412-648-1236  
E-mail: [alevine@pitt.edu](mailto:alevine@pitt.edu)

c/o Joanna Getting  
[getting@pitt.edu](mailto:getting@pitt.edu)