

I want to thank Mary Ellen O'Connell and the Committee for the invitation to the Society for Prevention Research's participation in today's significant event.

The Society for Prevention Research began in 1991 in response to the need of drug abuse prevention researchers to have a forum in which to discuss their research and to advance the field of prevention science. Beginning with about 20 researchers, SPR broadened its focus beyond drug abuse to include the prevention of other mental, emotional and behavioral disorders and expanded its membership to over 700. Over the years SPR has developed guidelines for prevention research such as Standards of Evidence, the development of Community Monitoring Systems and the concept of braided funding and most recently, defining a research program associated with taking interventions to scale. In addition, SPR members are developing a white paper that lays out the field of prevention science emphasizing competencies related to epidemiology, intervention development and implementation, and prevention research methodology.

Today's release of the report, *Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders among Young People: Progress and Possibilities* comes at an opportune time for prevention researchers and prevention practitioners. The report builds on and advances the recommendations from prior National Academy of Science reports on prevention beginning with the 1993 *Understanding and Preventing Violence*, and followed by the 1994 *Reducing Risks for Mental Disorders: Frontiers for Preventive Intervention Research*, the 2000 *No time to Lose—Getting More from HIV Prevention*, the 2003 *Reducing Underage Drinking—A Collective Responsibility*, and the 2007 *Ending the Tobacco Problem: A Blueprint for the Nation*. All of these reports show key progress and

success in applying prevention science to some of our Nation's greatest issues and lay out a research agenda that has the potential to accumulate a knowledge-base that would lead to improving the health of our citizenry.

On behalf of the membership of SPR I want to commit our support of the report and its recommendations and look forward to working with our colleagues "to advocate for" the development and implementation of a national prevention research agenda.