Dr. Stephen Lepore is chair and professor of social and behavioral sciences. With degrees from the University of California-Irvine, Harvard University, and Clark University, Dr. Lepore’s work centers on cancer prevention, control, and survivorship. He develops evidence-based behavioral interventions to enhance the well-being of cancer survivors and promote healthy lifestyle behaviors that support cancer prevention and early detection.

A pioneer in the field, Dr. Lepore introduced the Social Cognitive Processing Model, which explores how interpersonal relationships influence psychological adjustment to cancer. This framework underpins a range of interventions—delivered individually, in groups, and online—designed to improve survivors' quality of life. His commitment to addressing cancer disparities is evident in projects targeting high-risk populations, including African American men and low-income families, with interventions promoting informed prostate cancer testing and smoking cessation. His research increasingly integrates technology, such as mHealth tools, text messaging, and online platforms, to expand the reach and impact of interventions.

Recognized for his contributions, Dr. Lepore has earned prestigious honors, including awards from the American Psychological Association and the Society of Behavioral Medicine, as well as a Fulbright Award. He is a Fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, with long-standing NIH service as a charter member of the Behavioral Medicine Interventions study section. His research, supported by federal and private grants over several decades, is widely published in top-tier health, psychology, and medicine journals.