Greetings from ECPN!

This issue of the newsletter highlights many of the activities of the Steering Committee that occurred during the SPR Annual Meeting. As you will see, our committee was very busy this year!

One of our committee’s central tasks is to develop and organize the three ECPN-sponsored sessions, and the highlights from the luncheon and two symposia are noted in this issue. In addition to the three sessions, the ECPN Training Committee also organized and led a pre-conference workshop on innovative strategies for teaching prevention science.

The Annual Meeting is also an opportunity to honor outstanding members of our community. This year we honored Dr. Stephanie Lanza with the **Friend of ECPN Award** and Dr. Donna Coffman with the **John B. Reid Early Career Award**. I can attest that the biographies presented on page 3 are only a brief snapshot of their extensive accomplishments!

Another highlight of the Annual Meeting was the announcement of the first cohort of the **Prevention Science Early Career Reviewer Program** (page 5). ECPN worked with Dr. Catherine Bradshaw, editor-in-chief of *Prevention Science* to launch this new initiative. This inaugural cohort were added to the editorial board of *Prevention Science* and have committed to providing up to four reviews each year with the support and guidance of their mentor.

We are also highlighting two ECPN members in this issue of the newsletter. Diego García-Huidobro and Jennifer Doty are both interested in adolescent health promotion through the impact of the parent-child relationship. And, lucky for all of us, they are both active members of ECPN.

Finally, this issue contains many of the recent research accomplishments of ECPN members. We know that there are many more accomplishments that could be shared, so when you have news or want to share the news of your colleagues, don’t be shy! And, as always, please contact me, or any of the members of the ECPN Steering Committee, if you have ideas, concerns, or suggestions on how we can improve our organization.

I wish you all success in your prevention efforts!

Jessica Duncan Cance, MPH, PhD

Mark your Calendars!

**SPR 23rd Annual Meeting**

**Integrating Prevention Science and Public Policy**

May 26-29, 2015

**Preconference Workshops**

May 26, 2015

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
Washington, DC

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**Members of the ECPN Steering Committee**

Jessica Duncan Cance (ECPN chair), Marie-Hélène Véronneau (ECPN chair-elect), Paula Adams, Courtney Baker, Brian Barber, Tia Barnes, Brittany Rhodes Cooper, Melisa Creamer, Gracelyn Cruden, Katrina Debnam, Jennifer Doty, Nadine Finigan-Carr, Vanessa E. Fuentes, Diego Garcia-Huidobro, Natalie Golaszewski, C. Emily Hendrick, Angela Henneberger, Sarah Lindstrom Johnson, Brandi Martell, Adam J Milam, John Monopoli, Elise Pas, Jonathan Pettigrew, Sarah Racz, Solomon Renati, Theda Rose, Jessie (Connell) Rudi, Kelly Rulison, Valerie Shapiro, Amanda Sisselman, Frank Snyder, Anna Talley, Nancy Trevino-Schafer, Elizabeth Weybright, Anna Whitehall, and Julie Yao
News from ECPN Members

Recent Publications


Grants & New Positions

- **Paula Adams** was awarded a U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Grant to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program. This is a 3-year, $300k grant with funding beginning Oct. 1.

- **Thalida Em Arpawong** received an NRSA F32 Fellowship from the National Institute on Aging entitled, "Etiology of Emotional Resilience in Older Adults: Stress, Genes, and Behaviors". The goal of this study is to assess the mechanisms to emotional resilience due to genetic, environmental, and behavioral variation among older individuals. The fellowship runs 3 years (2014-2017) and will enable her to conduct research in the Department of Psychology at USC.

- **Nadine Finigan-Carr** has moved into a faculty position at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She is now a Research Assistant Professor in the Ruth Young Center for Families and Children. In addition, she received a multi-year grant for $1.25 million dollars from the US Administration for Children and Families: Children’s Bureau as the Principal Investigator of a grant to address trafficking within the child welfare population for the state of Maryland.

- **Jonathan Pettigrew** is participating as a co-investigator with Felipe Gonzalez Castro (PI), Michael L. Hecht and Manuel Barrera (Co-PIs), and Michelle Miller-Day and Janice Krieger (Co-Is) on a grant funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This study involves collaboration between University of Texas El Paso, Real-Prevention, LLC, and Arizona State University. The grant, Theoretical Congruence and Sustainability of Local Adaptation Activities, will examine how adaptation to local contexts is sustained (or not) over time and how teacher adaptations are congruent (or not) with prevention theory. Based on in-depth interviews with teachers and administrators and analysis of adaptation and sustainability, this study will develop emerging principles and guidelines for effective local adaptation.

- **Valeriy Ryabukha** will be implementing two SAP grant projects in the academic year 2014/2015. 1. “Community Contribution into Enforcement of the Right of a Child on Protection from Harmful Influences”, supported by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Institute of International Education; 2. “Human Rights of Children and Police”, supported by the USA Embassy in Ukraine.

- **Lindsey Weiler** started a new position this Fall at the University of Minnesota as an Assistant Professor of Family Social Science.

If you have news to share including publications, grants, or new positions, please email Melisa Creamer (melisa.r.creamer@uth.tmc.edu) to have it included in the next newsletter.
ECPN Awards

Each year at the Annual Meeting, ECPN awards the Friend of ECPN Award and the ECPN John B. Reid Early Career Award to two members of SPR.

The Friend of ECPN Award is presented to a mid-career or senior preventionist who has supported and encouraged early career prevention scientists or issues. Persons who receive the Friend of ECPN Award have actively supported early career activities through helping the ECPN organization or encouraging the early career preventionists in their work.

In 2014, the Friend of ECPN Award was presented to Dr. Stephanie Lanza. Dr. Lanza has served on over 12 dissertation committees and has officially mentored 4 pre-doctoral and 5 post-doctoral Prevention and Methodology Training Program (PAMT) fellows over the past 10 years. Dr. Lanza is an active and dedicated member of SPR, and has made concerted efforts to support young scientists in becoming the same. This is illustrated by the numerous presentations/posters she has co-authored with young scientists at the annual conference, through her participation on ECPN-sponsored panels, and her mentorship of the Penn State SPR Cup team.

The ECPN John B. Reid Early Career Award is given in recognition of a person early in his or her career in prevention who has shown commitment to prevention science through outstanding contributions to research, policy, or practice.

The ECPN John B. Reid Early Career Award was presented to Dr. Donna Coffman. Dr. Coffman is a productive scholar; she has 30 publications since receiving her Ph.D. in 2005 for about 4 publications per year—an impressive rate of productivity. Dr. Coffman is advancing prevention research in the area of mediation analysis methods. She also excels in grantsmanship, teaching, and service. She has served as a Co-Investigator on five ongoing projects and is project director for Prevention and Treatment methodology at the Pennsylvania State University Methodology Center.

Please look for the ECPN 2015 Awards Call for Nominations in January 2015. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate for either of these awards, please contact Courtney Baker: cnbaker@tulane.edu

Mobilizing Writers
By Sarah Lindstrom-Johnson

As the old adage goes, the coin of the realm in academia is publications. Therefore it makes sense that the latest craze in “helping the early career researcher to be successful” is writing support groups. Below I describe the structures and strengths/challenges of the various support groups I have been involved in.

Writing Accountability Group (WAG): A WAG consists of a smaller group of individuals (4-8) that meet at least weekly for about an hour. The first part of the WAG involves a 15-minute check-in with members of the group around goal setting, followed by 30 minutes of individual writing, and then closes with 15 minutes of report out. The advantages of a WAG are that it promotes consistent writing and the members do not necessarily need to have similar topic interests. The challenge is in translating the 30 minutes of writing time supported by the WAG into additional time throughout the week.

Topic Focused Writing Group: A topic focused writing group gathers individuals with similar interests a couple times a month to read and critique fellow members’ work. Members commit to present one work in progress a semester and to thoughtfully provide feedback on others’ work. In this sense a topic focused writing group allows for feedback on a piece of work and practice in reviewing articles. It can also foster future collaborations between members. Unfortunately, depending on the size of the group, there may be only one opportunity a semester to share work.

Daily Writing Accountability: This is the most self-driven writing support; a small group of individuals (2-4) establish a shared document to track the number of hours spent writing. Each member publically sets their own writing goals (e.g., 2 hours a day, 15 hours a week, 700 hours a year) and tracks them daily. As such, this strategy is only as effective as the members are in utilizing it. It does provide a nice summary of effort that allows for identification and trouble-shooting around writing blocks.

And finally, more important than the method are the results. Identify a strategy that works for you and stick with it!
Congratulations to the 2014 Student Poster Contest Winners

**Contest Winners**

**Yu Liu: Testing measurement invariance in longitudinal data using ordinal indicators**

Yu Liu is a doctoral student in the Quantitative Psychology program at Arizona State University. Her broad research interests lie in longitudinal research methodology, particularly methods that may be applied in prevention science. She is interested in the analysis of longitudinal data using structural equation, multilevel and dynamical systems models, longitudinal measurement invariance, and missing data analysis. She is also interested in the comparison of Bayesian versus frequentist approaches. Her primary focus is on developing models and examining their performance for the study of intraindividual change and interpersonal processes influencing intraindividual change.

**Brandon McDaniel: Unintended intervention effects: Family foundations reduces the influence of maternal depression on infant sleep**

Brandon McDaniel is a doctoral candidate in the Human Development and Family Studies program and a Prevention and Methodology Training Fellow in the Prevention Research Center at The Pennsylvania State University. His research examines the development and outcomes of couple and coparenting relationships in a variety of contexts; some of these contexts have included the transition to Parenthood, bedtime and nighttime, and media/technology in family life. He is interested in intensive longitudinal data and ecological momentary assessment, especially as these methods and designs give a better window into family processes that often occur on much smaller time scales than are typically measured (e.g., day-to-day, hour-to-hour, and minute-to-minute).

**Vanessa Fuentes: How does culture affect Latino college students’ mental health?**

Vanessa Fuentes is a master’s student in the Psychology program at The Catholic University of America. Her research interests focus on understanding mental health trajectories in adolescent ethnic minority youth, specifically Latino adolescents. She is also interested in understanding how the role of cultural and family values, such as familism, play a part in the stress and coping processes of ethnic minority adolescents in at-risk communities. In the future she hopes to pursue a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology to focus on furthering research centered on ethnic minority populations.

**Honorable Mentions**

**Angelica De Jesús: Do body image problems and parental weight comments predict Latino/a young adults’ depressive symptoms?**

Angélica De Jesús is a researcher and community organizer currently working in Lansing, Michigan. Her work focuses on improving health outcomes among those most impacted by health disparities. She is particularly interested in using community engagement strategies to develop more effective prevention and intervention programming with Latino populations in the US. She recently completed her time as a VCU PREP trainee where she worked as a graduate research assistant for two district wide youth intervention initiatives implemented by Richmond Public School System the Clark Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development (CHI) and other community stakeholders. She is building on her experiences at CHI through learning more about how immigration and criminal justice policies impact the public health landscape, particularly regarding Latinos/as and by continuing community health and youth development work here in the heart of Michigan.

**Emily Hendrick: The role of pubertal development, geography, and the family in predicting women’s educational attainment at ages 25 and 40**

Emily Hendrick is a doctoral student in the Health Behavior and Health Education program in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education and a trainee in the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research interests include understanding and reducing maternal, child, and adolescent health disparities by investigating the social determinants of women’s health behaviors and health across the life course. Her research falls under two general themes: 1) the causes and consequences of adolescent risk behaviors, and 2) identifying modifiable factors that inhibit and facilitate women’s health behaviors. For example, using mixed methods research, she studies the psychosocial process of pubertal development and the mechanisms by which pubertal timing impacts adolescent risk behaviors, health, and educational attainment. Through statistical analysis of population datasets, she will also be studying protective factors for achieving healthy breastfeeding and interpregnancy guidelines among Hispanic/Latina women.

**Angela Lee-Winn: Gender differences in binge eating in the general U.S. adolescent population**

Ann Lee-Winn is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Mental Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research focuses on binge eating as a public health concern, with emphasis on: 1) understanding potential gender and racial/ethnic differences in eating behavior to reduce health disparities in eating disorders and obesity and 2) examining how mindfulness-based practices can promote healthy eating behavior. For her dissertation, she will be examining possible gender differences in prevalence and symptom presentation of binge eating as well as psychosocial correlates, namely personality traits and coping styles, and their associations with binge eating in adolescents at a population level.
NEW CONNECTIONS
BY NADINE FINNIGAN-CARR

New Connections: Increasing Diversity of RWJF Programming is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) with technical assistance and direction provided by OMG Center for Collaborative Learning. New Connections seeks to diversify the perspectives that inform RWJF program strategy by introducing the Foundation to new researchers and consultants from underrepresented research communities. The program also seeks to support a broad network of diverse scholars working in health and health care (and related disciplines).

New Connections was created in 2005 to call attention to the talented researchers from underrepresented communities who were often isolated at their research institutions and overlooked for funding. In order to address this need, the New Connections program was created to provide grants, networking, and mentoring opportunities to early and midcareer scholars who:

- Have not received prior funding from RWJF as a principal investigator or through a program contract
- Are members of ethnic or racial minority or low-income communities and/or the first in their family to receive a college degree.

New Connections awarded its first grants in 2006 and since that time has funded 100+ diverse early and midcareer researchers. Additionally, the network of diverse scholars who have taken advantage of our mentoring and networking opportunities currently stands at over 1,200 diverse researchers. To find out more about the program, go to http://www.rwjf-newconnections.org/.

“Prevention Science Early Career Reviewer Program”
BY JESSICA DUNCAN CANE

This spring, ECPN partnered with Dr. Catherine Bradshaw, editor-in-chief of Prevention Science, to launch the Prevention Science Early Career Reviewer Program. The purpose of the program is to: 1) provide a mentored training experience to early career prevention scientists; 2) increase the pool and pipeline of quality reviewers for Prevention Science; 3) promote greater connection between the journal and ECPN regarding scholarship; and 4) promote greater visibility of the journal and SPR among early career scholars working in the field of prevention science. The overarching goal is to foster appreciation for, and enhanced understanding of and participation in, the peer-review process among early career scholars in the field of prevention science.

There was an outstanding set of applicants for this inaugural cohort. The selected early career reviewers and their mentors are:

- Dr. Alison Kramer-Kuhn (mentor: Dr. Albert Farrell)
- Dr. Patty Leijten (mentor: Dr. Thomas Dishion)
- Lauren Menger (mentor: Dr. Kimberly Henry)
- Dr. Sara St. George (mentor: Dr. Guillermo Prado)
- Dr. Yao Zheng (mentor: Dr. Robert McMahon)

Early career prevention scientists (i.e., doctoral candidates through the first two years of postdoctoral training) applied for the position and identified a senior prevention scientist to serve as a mentor. The early career reviewers were added to the editorial board of Prevention Science and have committed to providing up to four reviews each year with the support and guidance of their mentor. The early career reviewers serve as the reviewers of record.
ECPN Sessions at the Spring 2014 Annual Meeting

HOW TO REVIEW ARTICLES

The ECPN Luncheon session focused on reviewing articles. The session was co-chaired by Amanda Sisselman and Nancy Trevino Schaeffer. Session panelists at different career levels shared information about their experiences with the peer review process. Discussion centered on how to get involved in the peer review process, the importance of providing service in this way, and how to go about reviewing an article. Following the panelists’ discussion of their experiences, break-out discussions were held at tables, where participants were given parts of a real article manuscript to review. ECPN members and panelists led the table discussions, using questions designed to elicit feedback about the parts of the article. Report back from the table discussions demonstrated that luncheon participants had the opportunity to discuss what they might look for in an article and to practice reading it more critically. Participants also gained valuable feedback from colleagues and panelists about how to review an article, as well as how to become involved in the peer-review process for a journal in their field.

A special thanks to our panel members:
- Catherine Bradshaw, Ph.D., M.Ed. University of Virginia
- Elise Pas, Ph.D., NCSP, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Ph.D., Texas Tech University

We would love to hear from you!

If you have comments or ideas about the newsletter, contact Melisa Creamer at: melisa.r.creamer@uth.tmc.edu. The next issue of the newsletter will come out in Spring 2015, a few weeks before the annual meeting.

SETTING AND ACHIEVING GOALS THROUGHOUT YOUR EARLY CAREER TRAJECTORY

On the afternoon of Thursday May 29th, we had the opportunity to learn from the wisdom of Rhonda Boyd (Assistant Professor at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine), Phillip Graham (Senior Public Health Researcher, Crime, Violence, and Justice Research Program, RTI International), and Gerald August (Professor, Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota Medical School, and Director of Center for Personalized Prevention Research in Children’s Mental Health). With a room full of ECPNers, they shared tips and practical advice on how to face our early careers, address challenges and how keep our spirits up when facing problems. Persistence, collaboration and seeking positive mentorship are some of the key elements on which we received advice.

A special thanks to our panel members:
- Rhonda Boyd, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
- Phillip Graham, Dr.P.H., MPH, RTI International
- Gerald August, Ph.D., University of Minnesota Medical School

Are you on twitter? Make sure to check out the newly created Society for Prevention Research twitter account (@SocPrevRes)
While past sessions have focused on the importance of receiving good mentorship and have given guidance as to how to be a good mentee, little attention has been paid to the fact that the majority of ECPN members also find themselves as mentors. In fact, a recent survey of ECPN members suggests that they spend a substantial part of their week in various mentoring activities. While universities may provide teaching and research support, advice on mentoring, particularly for early career professionals, is less likely to be available. This session to:

1) Used data from the mentorship survey conducted in 2010 to discuss the dual roles of mentee/mentor for ECPN members
2) Elucidated best practices in mentoring, particularly geared towards the type of mentorship roles that ECPN members are most likely to identify (e.g., mentoring graduate and undergraduate students)
3) Provided strategies for balancing the time spent mentoring with other activities necessary for promotion
4) Provided an opportunity for small group discussion with experienced mentors regarding potential challenges encountered while mentoring as an early career professional.

Key points from this session were:

- Elucidate best practices in mentoring
- Provide an opportunity for small group discussion with experienced mentors regarding potential challenges encountered while mentoring as an early career professional
- Provide strategies for balancing the time spent mentoring with other activities necessary for promotion

A special thanks to our panel members:

- Michael Hecht, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University
- Sharon Lambert, Ph.D., George Washington University
- Brian Flay, Ph.D., Oregon State University
- Sarah Lindstrom-Johnson, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
- Amanda Sisselman, D.S.W, State University of New York

At the Spring 2014 Annual Meeting, two attendees won the ECPN raffle. This prize was a one year membership to SPR, which includes a subscription to Prevention Science. Congratulations to our winners: Andrea Lamont and Tia Barnes!

- Andrea Lamont is a doctoral student at the University of South Carolina, studying Clinical-Community Psychology, with Certificates in Quantitative Psychology and Applied Statistics.
- Tia Navelene Barnes is a postdoctoral associate at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. She is the project coordinator of Yale’s Recognizing Excellence in Learning and Teaching (RELATE) Project, which studies classrooms that serve students with diverse learning needs. Tia’s primary research focuses on prevention of and intervention in emotional and behavioral disorders in school-aged children.
MEET DIEGO GARCIA-HUIDOBRITO, M.D., PH.D. (C)

Diego Garcia-Huidobro is a family physician from Chile, fellow in the Interdisciplinary Research Training in Child & Adolescent Primary Care and graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Once he completed his medical and specialty trainings at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (2006, 2009) he realized that families are a critical environment and network for individuals' health that could be a significant target for preventive interventions. With these ideas, in 2011 he initiated a PhD in Family Social Science with minors in Epidemiology and Prevention Science to learn how to lead cutting-edge family-based research to promote health and prevent health risks.

Diego’s long-term career goal is to promote health and wellbeing of Latino families. He has collaborated developing and evaluating family-centered healthcare delivery systems in Chile and in the United States. Currently, he is conducting transdisciplinary community-based research to adapt an effective group-based parenting intervention for immigrant Latino families with adolescents into a one-to-one format. He expects to expand the reach of parenting education programs to promote strong family connections, better parent-child relationships, and positive youth development to reduce smoking and substance use, among other significant health risks for adolescents. Diego enjoys working in applied research settings that directly affects people’s outcomes, and therefore loves to conduct community-based research. Throughout his career, Diego has received local, national and international funding, and his work has been recognized at national and international scientific conferences, including SPR, the world conference of Family Medicine, among others. His research findings have been published in peer-reviewed journals such as Family Medicine, Family Practice, and the British Journal of General Practice.

When not working, Diego enjoys spending time with his wife, daughters, and friends. He loves to sleep, swim, grill and enjoy the beautiful Minnesota outdoors. Diego joined the ECPN in 2012. He loves SPR because of the terrific work of its members and the high quality of its research.

MEET JENNIFER DOTY, M.S., PH.D. (C)

Jennifer Doty is a doctoral candidate in Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota with an emphasis on prevention. Jennifer’s research interests are built around the idea that parent-child relationships are a key leverage point for improving adolescent health and well-being. She views the online environment as a potential outlet for the dissemination of parent-based prevention programming. She has authored six publications, with a focus on parents in an online environment. Her long-term goal is to build bridges between basic research and applied settings.

In her dissertation research, she focuses on the relationship between parents and adolescents prospectively over three generations in the Youth Development Study. She also examines links from intergenerational relationships to adolescent outcomes of depression and self-esteem in the third generation of study participants. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including a Kappa Omicron Nu Research Award for her dissertation work, an award from the Women’s Philanthropic Leadership Circle, and the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award through the National Council of Family Relations for best dissertation proposal. Her future research will build on her dissertation results to examine how family relationships connect individuals to family and community resources.

Jennifer has been a member of SPR since 2012 and enjoyed the rousing competition of the SPR Cup at last year’s SPR conference. She is also an active member of the Early Career Investigator Network (ECIN) as part of the Center for Personalized Prevention Research (CPPR) at the University of Minnesota. A native of Chicago, she makes a point to visit the windy city a couple times a year. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys her field work with two teenagers and a pre-teen at home.