



# ECPN Connections

The newsletter of  
the Early Career Preventionists Network  
of the Society for Prevention Research

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*Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter, especially (in alphabetical order): MeLisa Creamer, Max Crowley, Keryn Pasch, Lucie Quevillon, and Marie-Hélène Véronneau.*

## A Note from the Steering Committee Chair



Welcome to this issue of *ECPN Connections*! I am especially excited to

introduce this issue as it highlights the role of ECPN in the upcoming annual meeting of the Society for Prevention Research. Our steering committee has been very busy putting together a great program for the ECPN sessions at this year's meeting. I know each year we say that "this year will be a great meeting" but I do really think the sessions that the steering committee has put together will be of great interest to ECPN and the

larger SPR membership. Our luncheon will focus on collaborating across disciplines, an area of particular interest as many ECPNers work in interdisciplinary environments. We will have a session on foundation funding so early career scientists can learn more about alternative streams of funding and tips about applying to several foundations who will present. Finally, as many early career folks struggle with developing a career but still finding time to enjoy themselves outside of the work arena, our final session focuses on obtaining and maintaining a work-life balance.

We will also have an ECPN

Social Hour and steering committee meeting on Wednesday night at 7:45 right after the poster session but before the Annual Dance (see ad on page 3). We hope to see many of you there! Also, come by the awards presentation on Thursday where we will announce this year's winners of the ECPN Student Poster Contest.

As always, I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. I would like to thank Marie-Hélène Véronneau, MeLisa Creamer, and all other collaborators who have worked very hard putting it together!! I look forward to seeing everyone in DC!!

- Keryn Pasch

Mark your calendars!  
**SPR 20th Annual Meeting**

**Promoting Healthy Living through Prevention Science**

May 29 - June 1, 2012  
**Preconference Workshops**  
May 29, 2012

Hyatt Regency Washington, Washington, DC

## Postdoc Opportunity

### Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre

This is an opportunity to be involved in clinical research working with faculty and research staff with expertise in developmental psychopathology (Dr. Nancy Cohen) and clinical research and advanced statistics (Dr. Fataneh Farnia). The Research Fellow has a concurrent appointment in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. Ongoing projects are related to: Outcomes of dyadic and triadic psychotherapies with Infants and Preschoolers; Mental Health Promotion in Communities at Risk for Mental Health Problems; Evaluation of an International Program: Learning Through Play; Outcomes for Children Adopted from China; Overlap of Language Impairments with Child and Youth Psychopathology.

**Term:** September 2012–August, 2014. **Stipend:** \$30,000 plus benefits. **Deadline for applications:** June 30, 2012 or until position is filled. For more information about the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre: [hincksdellcrest.org](http://hincksdellcrest.org). To apply forward a CV, cover letter (statement of interest), and names and contact information for two references to: [nancy.cohen@utoronto.ca](mailto:nancy.cohen@utoronto.ca) OR [ncohen@hincksdellcrest.org](mailto:ncohen@hincksdellcrest.org)

## Members of the ECPN Steering Committee

Crystal Barksdale, Bethany Bray, Sharon Brenner, Sarah Chilenski, MeLisa Creamer, Max Crowley, Jessica Duncan Cance, Kerry Green, Sarah Lindstrom Johnson, Miesha Marzell, Keryn Pasch, Brittany Rhodes, Amanda Sisselman, Jeff Temple, Marie-Hélène Véronneau, Amanda Whitworth.

### We would love to hear from you!

If you have comments or ideas about the newsletter, or if you would like to share good news (publications, grants, new position), contact Marie-Hélène Véronneau at [veronneau.marie-helene@uqam.ca](mailto:veronneau.marie-helene@uqam.ca). The next issue of the newsletter will come out in Fall 2012.

# News from ECPN members

## Recent Publications

**Arpawong, T. E.**, Richeimer S. H., Weinstein F., Elghamrawy A., Milam J. E. (in press). Post-traumatic growth, quality of life, and treatment symptoms among adult cancer patients. *Health Psychology*.

**Cance, J. D.**, & Ennett, S. T. (2012). Demographic differences in self-report pubertal status among rural adolescents in the USA. *Annals of Human Biology*, 39, 84-87.

**Crowley, D. M.**, Greenberg, M. T., Feinberg, M. E., Spoth, R. L., & Redmond, C. R. (2011). The effect of the PROSPER partnership model on cultivating local stakeholder knowledge of evidence-based programs: A five-year longitudinal study of 28 communities. *Prevention Science*, 13(1), 96-105.

**Crowley, D. M.**, Jones, D. E., Greenberg, M. T., Feinberg, M. E., & Spoth, R. L. (2012). Resource consumption of a diffusion model for prevention programs: The PROSPER delivery system. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 50(3), 256-263.

Faulk, K. E., Gloria, C. T., **Cance, J. D.**, & Steinhardt, M. A. (in press). Depressive symptoms among U.S. military spouses during deployment: The protective effect of positive emotions. *Armed Forces & Society*. DOI:10.1177/0095327X11428785.

Foshee, V. A., Reyes, H. L. M., Ennett, S. T., **Cance, J. D.**, Bauman, K. E., & Bowling, J. M. (in press). Assessing the effects of *Families for Safe Dates*, a family-based teen dating abuse prevention program. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. DOI: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2011.12.029.

**Green, K. M.**, Zebrak, K. A., Robertson, J., Fothergill, K. E., & Ensminger, M. E. (in press). Interrelationship of substance use and psychological distress over the life course among a cohort of urban African Americans. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

**Green, K. M.**, Doherty, E. E., Fothergill, K. E., & Ensminger, M. E. (in press). Marriage trajectories and health risk behaviors throughout adulthood

among urban African Americans. *Journal of Family Issues*.

Kungskulniti N., Charoenca, N., Kengganpanich, T., Kusolwisitkul, W., Pichainarong, N., Kerdmongkol, P., Silapasuwan, P., Hamann, S. L., **Arpawong, T. E.** (in press). Smoking Prevalence Among Monks in Thailand. *Evaluation and The Health Professions*. doi:10.1177/0163278711426424

**Lindstrom Johnson S., Finigan, N. M.**, Bradshaw C., Haynie, D., Cheng T. L. (2011). Examining the link between neighborhood context and parental messages to their adolescent children about violence. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 49(1), 58-63.

**Lindstrom Johnson S., Finigan, N. M.**, Bradshaw C., Haynie, D., Cheng T. L. (in press). Urban African American parents' messages about violence: A mixed methods study of youth and their parents' conversations about how to resolve interpersonal conflict. *Journal of Adolescent Research*.

**Pasch, K. E.**, Velazquez, C. E., **Cance, J. D.**, Moe, S. G., & Lytle, L. A. (2012). Youth substance use and body composition: Does risk in one area predict risk in the other? *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 41(1), 14-26.

**Rhoades, B. L.**, Moore, J. E., & Bumbarger, B. K. (2012). The role of a state-level prevention support system in promoting high quality implementation and sustainability of evidence-based programs. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. doi: 10.1007/s10464-012-9502-1.

Sun P., Johnson C.A., Palmer P, Xie B., **Arpawong, T. E.**, Unger J., Rohrbach, L. A., Sprujit-Metz, D., Sussman, S. (2012). Concurrent and predictive relationships between compulsive Internet use and substance use: Findings from vocational high school students in China and the USA. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 9(3), 660-673.

## New Appointments

**Brittany Rhoades** will start a new position as assistant professor of Prevention Science in the department of Human Development at Washington State University in Fall 2012. She will be a part of the new PhD program in Prevention Science at WSU that emphasizes training in both the generation of research-based knowledge and its translation into effective programs and policies that positively impact the well-being of children, youth, adults, families, and their communities.

**Jeff Temple** recently created and became the director of the University of Texas Medical Branch's Behavioral Health and Research program within the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

## New Grants

**T. Em Arpawong**, doctoral student at the Institute of Prevention Research, University of Southern California, earned a two-year dissertation award from the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, University of California, for his dissertation project entitled "Smoking and Post-Traumatic Growth Among High Risk Youth."

**Marie-Hélène Véronneau**, assistant professor of psychology at the Université du Québec à Montréal, will be the principal investigator on an R03 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, at the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, for her project entitled "Mediators of the Relationship between Peer Experiences and Academic Adjustment." She also received a grant from the Strat-up Program for New Research Professors, from the Québec Research Fund—Society and Culture, for her project entitled "Interaction Dynamics in the Social World of Secondary School Students: The Role of Peers, Parents, and Teachers."

## Come and congratulate the new winners of the Annual ECPN Student Poster Contest

Look out for the winners of the ECPN Student Poster Contest, whose boards will be designated with a special ribbon during the poster sessions on Wednesday May 30 and Thursday May 31, 5:45-7:45pm, Columbia A/B.



## Meet Max Crowley



Max Crowley is a NIDA Prevention and Methodology Fellow and doctoral candidate at Penn State University and has been a member of the ECPN steering committee since 2009. He is currently mentored by Drs. Mark Greenberg and Linda Collins of the Prevention and Methodology Centers, respectively. Max is interested in the translation of evidence-based prevention to practice. He believes that, in order to take prevention

programs to scale in a sustainable manner, researchers must develop more efficient interventions and delivery systems.

Max's research focuses on developing and refining methods for evaluating the efficiency of prevention programs and systems. Over the last four years Max has conducted cost, cost-effectiveness and benefit-cost analyses of numerous substance abuse prevention programs as well as the PROSPER prevention delivery system (see member news section for references). As part of his work in this area, he has collaborated with Dr. Donna Coffman, also of the PSU Methodology Center, to apply causal inference techniques (e.g., propensity score analyses) to better study the impact of implementation quality on

program effectiveness and efficiency.

Last year, Max was part of the team to take home the SPR cup (see article in SPR Community Newsletter). He was also awarded the Research Society on Alcoholism's 2010-2011 John T. and Patricia A. O'Neill Addiction Science Education Award for his work within translational and addiction science. This year Max and his collaborators, Drs. Damon Jones and Laura Hill, have organized the "Prevention Efficiency Planning and Research Group" (PEPR), one of the SPR Special Interest Groups (SIG) meeting at this year's conference. Max encourages all those interested in studying the costs and benefits of evidence-based prevention as well as building more efficient prevention efforts to join them at the conference on Thursday May 31<sup>st</sup> from 12-1pm!

The ECPN Steering Committee is working hard behind the scenes. Students, postdocs, and new faculty members and researchers collaborate on a variety of projects (like this newsletter and the ECPN-sponsored presentations at the annual meeting).

**In this issue, we highlight the contribution two doctoral students who have proved to be valuable members of our network.**

## Meet MeLisa Creamer



I received my Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from American University in Washington, DC, and my Master of Public Health from the University of Texas School of Public Health, Austin Regional Campus. Currently, I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> year doctoral epidemiology student at the University of Texas School of Public Health Austin Regional Campus. I currently am one of two Michael & Susan Dell Health Scholars within the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, a research center housed within the School of Public Health. For the past three years, I have

worked with Dr. Cheryl Perry and Dr. Melissa Stigler on the 2012 Surgeon General's Report: *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults* (for more information on the report, see article on page 4). My research interests include prevention of tobacco use among youth and young adults.

I attended my first SPR meeting in the Spring of 2011, and quickly knew that I wanted to be involved. I think SPR is a great network of prevention scientists, who are doing the type of work that attracted me to Public Health. I attended the ECPN events at the meeting, and became a member of the ECPN steering committee last fall. Since then, it has been a pleasure to work with Keryn, the ECPN chair, and other members of the committee planning events for this spring's meeting. I have worked on the last two editions of the newsletter with Marie-Hélène Véronneau.

### ECPN Social Hour & Steering Committee Meeting

**Come and meet other ECPN members**



**NEW THIS YEAR:** The steering committee meeting will take place at the same time as our social hour. It is the perfect occasion to learn more about ECPN and how to get involved.

**Where:** Regency B.

**When:** Wednesday, May 30, 7:45pm-9:15pm

**Everybody is welcome!**



# ECPN Sessions at the Annual Meeting

<p><b>ECPN LUNCHEON</b>                  Wednesday, May 30, 2012                  11:45 am – 1:15 pm; Regency B  <b>Interdisciplinary Collaboration</b>  <i>(Registration Required)</i></p>	<p><b>ECPN SESSION I</b>                  Wednesday, May 30, 2012                  1:15 pm – 2:45 pm; Regency B  <b>Maintaining a Work-Life Balance</b></p>	<p><b>ECPN SESSION II</b>                  Thursday, May 31, 2012                  3:00 pm – 4:30 pm; Columbia C  <b>Obtaining Foundation Funding</b></p>
<p>The lunch session will address interdisciplinary collaboration in research and grant writing. A panel of successful researchers in the prevention field will be convened, and they will speak about their inter-disciplinary success for a short time as an introduction. Participants will write questions to be placed in a basket and answered by panel members, as time allows. Based upon participants' responses to a brief survey completed upon registration, participants will be seated according to research interests and fields in which they are interested in developing connections. The last portion of the session will be devoted to helping ECPN participants develop interdisciplinary relationships.</p> <p><b>Co-chairs:</b> Amanda Sisselman and Crystal Barksdale</p>	<p>The purpose of the session will be to discuss how to balance the demands of an early career workload and also have time for life outside of work. This session will have a mix of panel members from different settings. Panel will include members with and without children, single or not, and both men and women. The session will be structured as a roundtable and will begin asking panel members specific questions about how they have strived to achieve and maintain work-life balance, as well as describing possible trajectories of work-life balance through the early career stage. It will then be opened up for a question and answer session and discussion among all attendees and presenters.</p> <p><b>Co-chairs:</b> Sarah Chilenski and Keryn Pasch</p>	<p>In this time of economic uncertainty, identifying sources of funding is important, especially for professionals looking for their first funding. This session will highlight foundations that are interested in both funding prevention work and supporting early career scientists. Attendees will become familiar with many foundations, and also discussed will be how foundations' priorities, processes, and funding practices differ from those of the federal government. Speakers include representatives from The Foundation Center, a leading resource for information on philanthropy and grant funding, the William T. Grant Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Anne E. Casey Foundation.</p> <p><b>Co-chairs:</b> Jessica Duncan Cance and Sarah Lindstrom Johnson</p>

## Surgeon General Report on the Prevention of Tobacco Use in Youth *by MeLisa Creamer*

In March 2012, the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Regina M. Benjamin, released her latest report, *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults*. Dr. Cheryl Perry, recipient of the SPR Prevention Science Award in 2006 and Regional Dean and Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas School of Public Health Austin Regional Campus was the Senior Scientific Editor of the report. Dr. Melissa Stigler, recipient of the ECPN Early Career Award in 2005 and assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health Austin Regional Campus was the Senior Associate Editor of the report. MeLisa Creamer and Emily Neusel, current epidemiology doctoral students at the University of Texas School of Public Health Austin Regional Campus were graduate research assistants who contributed to the research and writing of the report.

The report focuses on updating the data from the 1994 Surgeon General's Report on Youth and Tobacco Use, as well as adding the important component of young adult tobacco use. The report is a collection of scientific evidence on the following themes:

- Health Consequences of Tobacco Use Among Young People;
- The Epidemiology of Tobacco Use Among Young People in the United States and Worldwide;
- Social, Environmental, Cognitive, and Genetic Influences on the Use of Tobacco Among Youth;
- The Tobacco Industry's Influences on the Use of Tobacco Among Youth; and
- Efforts to Prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use Among Young People.

The report concludes that the most effective prevention efforts are "coordinated, multicomponent interventions that combine mass media campaigns, price increases, including those that result from tax increases,

school-based policies and programs, and statewide or community wide changes in smoke-free policies and norms."

Over 100 scientists from 70 different institutions contributed to the report, which took more than 4 years to complete, and is available at [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/sgr/2012/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/2012/index.htm). There is also an executive summary and consumer piece available.



*From left to right: MeLisa Creamer, Melissa Stigler, the Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, Cheryl Perry, and Emily Neusel.*