Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Division of Prevention and Community Research, Department of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine invites applications for a two-year NIDA T32 postdoctoral research training program in substance abuse prevention. Applications are now being accepted for an immediate start date for one (1) fellow and a July 2016 start date for two (2) fellows.

The program emphasizes five research training aims: 1) to understand substance use/abuse and related behaviors within an ecological framework that emphasizes relevant developmental, family, social, cultural, and neurobiological contexts; 2) to enhance knowledge development and application in pre-intervention, implementation, and dissemination research; 3) to learn state-of-the-art data analytic methods that incorporate rigorous field and laboratory research methods, including mixed method designs when appropriate; 4) to gain experience in interdisciplinary research through collaborations with scientists in other departments, centers, and programs; and 5) to increase knowledge about the translation of research into real-world contexts that impact prevention practice and policy, and ultimately, public health.

Postdoctoral fellows participate in core seminars on Research and Data Analytic Methods, Grant Development, and Professional Development as well as in seminars and colloquia that cover related topics, such as the ethical conduct of research and current topics in substance abuse prevention. Fellows also receive mentor-based training on at least two scientific projects while working concurrently with two core faculty who serve as their scientific advisors. Faculty available to serve as mentors are located in several research divisions in the Department of Psychiatry, such as the Division of Prevention and Community Research, the Division on Addictions, the School of Public Health, the Yale Stress Center, the Yale Child Study Center, and Women’s Health Research at Yale.

Competitive candidates should have: 1) a Ph.D. in community, clinical, developmental, counseling, or health psychology, or a doctoral degree in public health, family studies, social work, or social welfare; 2) a strong research background; and 3) interest in pursuing an academic career. Applicants should email a CV, representative reprints, a statement of interests and future goals, identification of up to three faculty members with whom they wish to work listed in order of priority (available from http://psychiatry.yale.edu/psychology/education/postdoc/dpcr.aspx), and three letters of recommendation to the Training Director, Jacob K. Tebes at: jacob.tebes@yale.edu. Reviews of applications will begin immediately and continue until positions are filled. Yale University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and minority group members are encouraged to apply.

Scientific Projects Listed by Faculty Member Available Now and Starting July 2016

All fellows work with two faculty scientific advisors, and as part of their application, are asked to identify up to three faculty with whom they wish to work, listed in order of priority. Once matched with two faculty scientific advisors, fellows join research teams based on their interests and experience.

Christian M. Connell, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology) and Director, Child Development and Epidemiological Research. His research addresses issues related to the prevention of risk behaviors and promotion of positive outcomes for at-risk child and adolescent populations within community settings or served by formal systems of care. A primary focus of his research examines the role of child, family, and system-level factors on outcomes for youth involved in the child welfare system or related service systems (e.g., behavioral health, juvenile justice). This research includes both risk-and-
protective factor research as well as research on community-based treatment and service delivery models to reduce the negative impacts of child maltreatment and trauma exposure. A second area of research examines potentially malleable influences on the development of risky behavior (i.e., substance use, sexual risk behavior, antisocial behavior) among at-risk child and adolescent populations, and also involves the development and testing of programs to prevent or reduce involvement in such behaviors. Finally, Dr. Connell is interested in the application of advanced multivariate data analytic methods to developmental and prevention research.

**Cindy A. Crusto, Ph.D.**, is Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology) and Director, Program and Service System Evaluation at The Consultation Center. Dr. Crusto’s program of research examines the impact of psychological trauma (e.g., family and community violence) on children, and ecological influences on child and family well-being. Dr. Crusto also studies social processes and influences on the health and development of young children, including parent experiences of racism, neighborhood context, and substance use. Opportunities are available to join: (a) an NIH-funded study on the influence of child factors, and broader social determinants and processes on young children’s health; (b) an NIH-funded study that evaluates the impact of (GXE) genetic and psychological environmental factors (discrimination, depression, parenting behaviors, substance use) on the health of African American children aged 3 to 5 years and their mothers; and (c) a foundation-funded evaluation of mobile phone text messaging (Short Message Service, SMS) support groups to provide peer and professional support for adolescents living with HIV in South Africa.

**Derrick M. Gordon, Ph.D.**, is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology) and Director, of Research, Policy and Program on Male Development at The Consultation Center. His program of research seeks to identify factors that impact men and boys’ healthy family and community functioning. In this work attention is paid to factors such as community violence, poverty, incarceration, substance use, school truancy, parenting, social supports, masculinity, educational outcomes, intimate partner violence, and their impact on the functioning of men and boys. Dr. Gordon is also interested in understanding how young men use preventive health care services and identifying factors that either facilitate or inhibit access. This research seeks to understand the resources needed to support men and boys to successfully attain the skills needed to assume productive roles in their family and community systems.

**Joy S. Kaufman, Ph.D.**, is Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology), Deputy Director for Operations at The Consultation Center and Director of Evaluation Research within the Division of Prevention and Community Research. Her research program examines contextual factors, such as exposure to violence, substance use and familial stress, that impact outcomes for populations at risk. Utilizing qualitative and quantitative methods, including community-based participatory research, Dr. Kaufman evaluates the implementation of evidenced-based practices within community-based networks of care and the impact of system functioning on service recipient outcomes. The fellow would have the opportunity to: (a) join a team developing manuscripts that examine outcomes and implementation processes from a community-based behavioral health network of care serving children under the age of 6 with social and emotional difficulties (parental substance use, parental stress, child outcomes); (b) join a team evaluating the implementation and outcomes of a state-wide system of care for children with severe emotional and behavioral issues (youth substance use, exposure to traumatic events, parental stress, youth outcomes); and/or (c) join a team evaluating implementation and outcomes of a multi-site national evaluation of model programs to reduce the rate of homicide resulting from domestic violence.

**Sherry McKee, Ph.D.**, is a Professor of Psychiatry and Director, Yale Behavioral Pharmacology Laboratory. Her research is focused on improving treatment for those with nicotine and alcohol use disorders. Using a transdisciplinary perspective, she uses human laboratory paradigms, survey research, epidemiological research, and policy research to uncover the mechanisms underlying poor outcomes and translate these findings into improved interventions. Currently, Dr. McKee is leading a large
interdisciplinary research effort to develop smoking cessation interventions that are sensitive to gender differences in smoking behavior. Researchers spanning diverse areas of expertise (e.g., molecular biology, neuroimaging, pharmacology, pharmacogenetics, health economics, policy) are collaborating to develop effective interventions for female and male smokers.

**Megan Smith, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry, in the Child Study Center & in the School of Public Health, Division of Chronic Disease Epidemiology. Dr. Smith's work is focused on community-partnered or community-based participatory research and the co-creation of interventions to address depressive anxiety and addictive disorders among low-income, racial and ethnic minority women and their children. Dr. Smith's current projects include: (1) a mobile health technology intervention to prevent relapse to smoking in the postpartum period for low-income women; (2) a study to examine the acceptability and feasibility of collecting biomarkers in community settings to assess toxic stress among mothers and young children, and (3) a longitudinal, randomized neighborhood study focused on the delivery of interventions to address maternal mental health and economic stability for families in novel community settings such as supermarkets and public housing complexes.

**Tami P. Sullivan, Ph.D.**, is Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology), Director, Family Violence Research and Programs, and Co-Director of the Postdoctoral Training Program. Her program of research centers on individual- and system-level factors that affect the mental and physical health of women victims of intimate partner violence (IPV). At the individual level, she conducts risk and protective factor research and is particularly interested in applying micro-longitudinal designs such as experience sampling methods and conducting research that informs the development of interventions to be implemented in community settings. Specifically, Dr. Sullivan focuses on advancing knowledge of IPV, posttraumatic stress, substance use, and HIV/sexual risk – as well as other co-occurring problems. At the system-level, she focuses on understanding the capacity of systems (e.g., criminal justice system) to meet the unique needs of IPV-exposed women.

**Jacob K. Tebes, Ph.D.**, is Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology), Child Study, and Public Health; Director, Division of Prevention and Community Research & The Consultation Center; and, Chief Psychologist, Connecticut Mental Health Center. Dr. Tebes is currently working on a unique NIH-funded longitudinal dataset that examines the value, impact, and innovativeness of interdisciplinary team science in the study of stress and addiction. This mixed methods study involves more than 60 researchers and includes individual, team, network, and bibliometric data relevant to assessing the productivity and impact of interdisciplinary team science. Postdoctoral fellows will work closely with Dr. Tebes and his team to analyze data and prepare manuscripts for publication.

**Nadia L. Ward, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology) and Director of Urban Education & Policy Research, and **Michael J. Strambler, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology), at The Consultation Center. Drs. Ward and Strambler’s research focuses on the prevention of problem behaviors such as substance abuse and other negative social, behavioral, and academic outcomes among adolescents. Currently, Dr. Ward is the PI for two seven-year longitudinal studies of a comprehensive urban school reform initiative that is designed to support the social-emotional, academic, and health outcomes among 3,000 urban middle and high school students. Fellows are invited to examine questions of interest with the datasets from these studies and they have opportunities to participate in the implementation of innovative school-based intervention approaches. A second project examines the influence of stress and coping on primary- and mental health outcomes among mother-adolescent dyads and the buffering effect coping has outcomes of interest for both mothers and teens. This study uses a mixed methods approach to understand the phenomenological experience of low-income, single mothers and their teenage children as relates to stress and coping.